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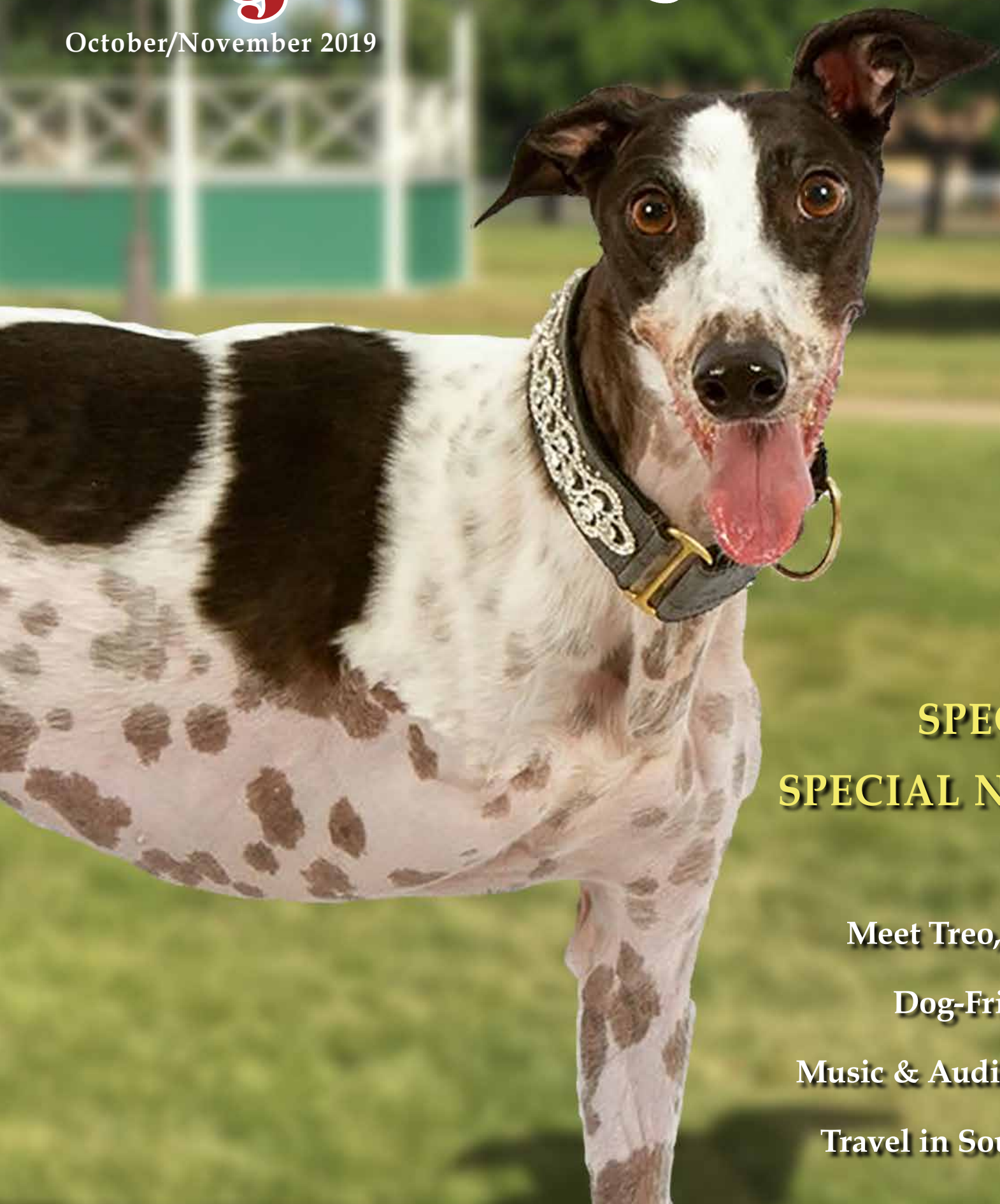
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Introducing the NEW FLAGSTAFF SEDONA DOG.COM Website

- Clean, bold new look
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Publishers/Editors

Elaine Rigden

**Advertising Sales
Call (480) 717-9877**

Elaine@FlagstaffSedonaDog.com

Verde Valley Sales

Amber Polo • (928) 254-0815

Feature Writers

Amber Polo

Issue Editor
Special Features



Jacqueline Vaughn

Special Features

Stacey Wittig

Travels with Pets



Rebecca Poling

Special Feature

Melissa Bowersock

Special Feature



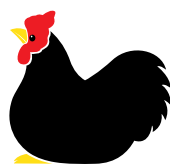
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**If you have a story idea, please send it to
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**Frankly, I'm not Frank.
It's me, Amber.**



First, I want to thank Frank. In the August-September issue, Frank talked about the importance of adopting older pets and shared the benefits of a adopting a senior. His words became the inspiration for the theme of this issue: Adopting Special Needs Pets. Sadly, senior pets are often considered special needs, so here you'll find lots about special needs: blind, deaf, diabetic, and more

Gratitude to Rebecca Poling and her article that gives us good news about rescues and shelters and special needs pets. To writers Jacqueline Vaughn and Melissa Bowersock who jumped on board. To the shelters who helped by selecting their special needs residents, seniors, and longtime residents – those most in need of homes. And to Nick Hunseder's Treo, who became our cover girl, proving you don't need four legs to be beautiful.

To Stacey Wittig for taking us to Montana and to Drake at Clarkdale's Copper Museum proving some museums do love dogs. To Carol Gondalfo for reminding us cats are amazing. To Alice Klies for memories of a magic dog. And to Ann Metlay for sharing a poem.

And always Gratitude to the amazing Linda at EMI who lays out the magazines with talent and patience and makes it beautiful.

And most of all thanks to Elaine for letting me put together this special issue.

Most importantly: Elaine, we miss you,

Amber

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Northern Arizona Animal Welfare Coalition (NAAWC) is a new 501c3 non-profit organization created to recognize and support the ongoing efforts of our community's animal shelters, rescue organizations, animal welfare service providers, and other affiliated organizations working to help pets in need across Northern Arizona. NAAWC's goal is to build and nurture existing animal welfare programs by offering opportunities for networking, collective purchasing, cooperative grant opportunities, and event collaboration. NAAWC will also provide peer support, encouragement, resources and recognition, work to enhance member organizations' influence and credibility, and facilitate professional development and training.

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Special Needs Pets in Shelters & Rescues

By Rebecca Poling



Rufus

Over the last several decades, society's attitudes have changed significantly with respect to the management and treatment of people with disabilities. More recently, the same has happened with respect toward senior pets and those with special needs. Everyone remembers David Duchovny's ads for Pedigree, and their message "Shelter pets aren't broken." Those commercials

helped change public attitudes toward shelter animals in general, while simultaneously giving a huge boost to special needs pets.

Years ago, old-fashioned attitudes toward pets as disposable property created little expectation for shelters to do anything other than simply dispose of them. But today's shelters and rescues see things differently - a lot differently. No longer shunned by rescue groups or euthanized in shelters, many senior pets and those with special needs are now welcomed in private shelters and rescue groups, and even in municipal shelters who work closely with transfer partner organizations to guarantee they receive appropriate care.

Most special needs animals do not need a lot of extra veterinary care, so that makes it easier for budget-challenged organizations who want to help them. Shelter-based foster home programs have proven quite effective for temporary housing of senior and special needs pets, and funding priorities for some grant-making foundations have shifted toward these pets as well.

Today it's not uncommon to see a tri-pod dog or cat getting adopted from a shelter. Senior pets with arthritis often are popular with empathetic senior citizens and are usually not expensive to care for, needing only inexpensive medication for pain management. Blind dogs and blind cats may take longer to get used to the shelter environment or a new foster home, but with extra attention from staff and volunteers, are easily accommodated and can be appropriately rehomed. The same is true for deaf cats and deaf dogs. Even pets with mobility issues like cerebellar hypoplasia generally fare quite well in shelters with just a bit of patience and understanding from staff and volunteers. For those animals that do need extra care, there are now foster-home based rescue groups that exist specifically to help special needs animals.

Over the years, I've fostered and adopted many special needs cats and dogs. We adopted a blind cat into our home six years ago and brought him to Arizona when we moved here. We didn't need to make any special accommodations for Franklin, other than to insist he be an indoor-only cat. He relied on his hearing, used his whiskers for navigation, and got a little extra help from the sighted kitties in our home. Prior to that, we fostered and adopted out a deaf kitten with



Annie

mobility issues caused by cerebellar hypoplasia. Other than being extra vigilant when Annie insisted on climbing tables and jumping off, she required very few accommodations and no non-routine veterinary care. Her wobbly gait and tilted head only made her more endearing to those who met her.

Despite what you might think, many special needs pets are often quite popular with adopters. They are not pitied or viewed differently, and often find homes with compassionate people whose friends or family have similar disabilities, or with individuals employed in caregiving professions. Verde Valley Humane Society recently placed an adorable Chihuahua named Albert who suffered from cerebellar hypoplasia with a local nurse, and the organization currently has a senior cat awaiting adoption who suffers from a permanent (but endearing) head tilt caused by a recent stroke. I've adopted sightless kittens to the daughter of an optometrist, a deaf cat to a deaf teenager, and countless other special needs pets to loving, forever homes.

Special needs pets may not be for everyone, but most are easier to care for than you might think - and they provide every bit as much love and companionship. You can find a senior or special needs pet waiting for you today in area shelters and rescue groups.

Rebecca Poling has been in the animal welfare industry nearly two decades, working with private and municipal shelters, rescue groups and coalitions. She and her husband, and their cats, moved to the Verde Valley from Dallas 2-1/2 years ago and now help local non-profit organizations and small businesses with grants, events, fundraising, social media, web design, graphic design and advertising illustration. Find out more at www.HouseMountainCreative.com.

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Pets with Hearing Impairment

By Jacqueline Vaughn



Some dogs are born deaf. Other than congenital deafness, dogs can lose hearing from a variety of causes, from chronic ear infections or injuries to drug toxicity and old age, according to George M. Strain, PhD, a leading veterinary researcher on the causes of deafness in dogs and a professor of neuroscience at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University.

Strain identified 89 dog breeds with incidences of congenital deafness, some much higher than others. Dalmatians seem to be the most at risk with 30% of puppies born deaf in one or both ears. Other breeds with higher incidents of deafness include the Bull Terrier, English Setters, Australian Cattle Dogs, the Catahoula Leopard Dog, and Whippets. Oddly, he says, some solid white dogs, such as the Spitz or the Samoyed, have no problems with deafness.

Amazing Aussies Lethal White Rescue of Arizona, based in Mesa, Arizona, not only rescues dogs that have become blind because of the double merle genetic defect, but also educates the public about caring for dogs that may be blind, deaf, or both. They note, "They will not die because they are born this way; if correctly cared for, these pups can live a normal and healthy life, just like any other Aussie."

Congenital deafness in cats is more likely to occur in white cats with blue eyes, but as is the case with dogs, many cats will lose their hearing as they age. Cats tend to compensate for their lack of hearing by becoming more vocal or, not able to regulate their own volume, vocalize more loudly. Since it's not unusual for a cat to ignore an owner who calls, it may not always be possible to determine whether a cat is really hard of hearing or simply being, well, an obstinate cat.

Some deaf cats learn to respond to hand signals similar to those used with dogs. Deaf cats cannot hear warning sounds such as car engines, lawnmowers, or barking dogs. A bell on the collar will help locate a moving cat's whereabouts.

Strain also says that, although researchers still aren't sure what causes congenital deafness, they do know it's most common in dogs with white or nearly white heads. "The lack of pigment on the head causes the pigment cells in the inner ear to fail to develop, or they may be lacking entirely...The lack of pigment cells causes the death of the nerve cells that need to develop for hearing to occur." While some dogs become deaf later in life, such as hunting dogs from guns fired close, adaptation seems to be the rule rather than the exception. Animals adjust to changing conditions and it may be the owner, rather than the dog, that is upset about the change."

One of the challenges facing owners of both deaf dogs and cats is determining how to communicate. The Grey Muzzle Organization offers tips including giving a signal and rewarding the pet with a treat when the signal is recognized. "It's also essential that you have a signal to get your dog's attention, a "look at me" cue.



Lethal White Molly and Jack

A hearing-impaired dog needs to focus on his handler's body to pick up signals for what he is being asked to do, whether it is a sit, a down, or a trick." Some owners of deaf animals use American Sign Language (ASL), as a way of communicating with their pet. Others like developing their own signals. Surprisingly, both cats and dogs that are deaf can be trained to respond to a clicker. There are training videos that explain how to use these tools.



Victoria Bresnan with special needs dogs

Animal Guardian Network's Special Needs Dogs

Animal Guardian Network's Healing River Ranch in Camp Verde is not an animal rescue. It's an animal sanctuary. Carrie Singer, Founder and Director, says, "We do not focus on the animals that can be saved. We focus on the ones no one else will save."

Carrie describes the care provided at Animal Guardian Network as an around-the-clock skilled care facility for its domestic and farm animal residents. 90% of Animal Guardian Network's 29 resident dogs have special needs. Most are seniors. Some have renal failure, heart conditions, and diabetes. Some are blind, others deaf. Some have had amputations. And others suffer from anxiety or dementia.

What does it take to care for these dogs? The residents require daily re-evaluation of dietary, medication and enrichment protocols. In addition to the daily cleaning, an average of 40 loads of laundry per week is done. Animal Guardian Network provides its residents with palliative life-long care, hospice services, and a range of enriching activities, geared at quality of life living.

Animal Guardian Network's Healing River Ranch

www.animalguardiannetwork.org info@animalguardiannetwork.org or 602-568-5636

Dogs with Visual Impairment

By Jacqueline Vaughn

Sophie's Halo

Sophie walks gingerly through the gates of Sedona's Posse Grounds field to meet dozens of dogs running freely through the wet grass. She's at the end of a leash held by her owner, Fran Coleman. Sophie is wearing something on her head. It is a halo—not the angelic kind, but one that allows this beautiful 10-year-old black Labrador Retriever to enjoy the morning.

The harness-like device, sometimes called the Muffin's Halo, is named after the inventor's dog who developed blindness due to cataracts. The now-patented product is strapped over an animal's torso and neck. A rounded, usually padded or plastic wire projects forward at the dog's eye level. It helps protect the animal's face by avoiding a direct collision with an object, and safely helps the dog navigate the surrounding area. Dogs can eat, drink, and sleep while wearing the halo, which sells for as low as \$20 to less than \$100. The company www.muffinshalo.com has set up a non-profit called "Second Chances for Blind Dogs" that donates Muffin's Halo products to blind dogs in shelters and rescues.

Sophie was not born blind, but she was the runt of a breeder's litter and was given to Coleman. For the first eight years of her life, there were no obvious indications that Sophie might be losing her sight. But later, Coleman remembers that Sophie had been limping, and that she fell into their swimming pool. Her eyes had a glazed-over look. She was taken to a specialist, where they found she didn't have cataracts, but was blind.

Vision Impairment

Blindness is one of the most common disabilities occurring in animals, and there are many possible causes. Cataracts affect the lens of a dog's eye, and often a film forms. Fortunately, when cataracts are discovered in the early stages, they are often treatable. Yet, not all filmy-looking eyes are due to cataracts.



Fran Coleman with Sophie wearing her halo

Another condition, called nuclear sclerosis, causes the lens in the eye to become hardened and gray, but does not affect vision. Blindness may also be caused by glaucoma, retinal disease, and cataracts caused by diabetes.

The genetic defect called lethal white or double merle gene is found in dogs with dapple (or merle) coats in certain breeds, such as Australian Cattle Dogs, Border Collies, Collies, Great Danes, and Dachshunds. Animals who have lost one or both eyes, or who are born without eyes, are also considered special needs, although the kind of care they need varies.

How to Help

The typical remedy for a dog who is beginning to, or who has already lost its vision is to maintain both a regular routine and to keep the environment as stable as possible. This might mean placing food in the same place, not rearranging furniture, or as putting a barrier, such as a chair, in the dog's path. To help the dog avoid dangers such as stairs or pools, a gate might be helpful. When walking a dog, owners often provide a harness, leash, or vest that says, "I'm blind" to alert others who might startle the dog or if the dog gets lost.



Muffin wearing Muffin's Halo Credit Silvie Bordeaux

While most owners of blind animals prefer that their dog learn its territory (both inside and out) by using other senses and through repetition, others feel uncomfortable having their pet bump into furniture or people. In Sophie's case, Coleman says the halo has made a tremendous difference, improving the dog's confidence and protecting her. Other dogs, including those at Sedona's Yappy Hour, seem to pay no attention to

Sophie's device, although Coleman says cats definitely recognize that something is different.

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When Your Dog Has Diabetes

By Melissa Bowersock



Katie

Meet Katie, a fifteen-year-old West Highland White Terrier. Westies are notoriously adorable, and who could imagine that such a sweet face could mask a multitude of health issues? Certainly not Linda Goldsmith and Mary Cooper who live in the White Mountains, who got Katie when she was two years old.

Although Katie had no health problems then, she developed them at the age of five. First it was skin allergies, then inflammation. Her lab results suddenly showed an elevated liver enzyme called ALKP. To counteract that, the vet put her on a liver support supplement.

It was in 2015 when poor little Katie was diagnosed with diabetes and Irritable Bowel Disease. Tests showed there were many foods she shouldn't eat, so Goldsmith started home cooking, finding foods that soothed her stomach and were diabetic friendly. Katie gets lean bison and quinoa along with a vitamin, and in over two years has had no IBD flare ups. Her ALKP level has also dropped.

Goldsmith is a believer in partnering with her vet to find the best solutions and together they tried different things. Goldsmith also plunged into her own research. She investigated many sources of information, including online liver support groups, and talking to her vet about medications. "I was like a mad scientist!" she says.

Finally she stumbled on a Facebook group called Canine Diabetes Support and Information (CDSI). This is where she learned how to properly manage Katie's diabetes, and with the group's help, has also been able to cope with the other unrelated problems that Katie suffers from. The group's members include those with the sole issue of diabetes as well as those that have additional health problems like Katie and they have learned how to safely manage all aspects of their dogs' care. The group has 11,900 members worldwide, and 26 moderators—including Goldsmith. Together they have years of hands-on experience managing diabetes, and they can guide newly diagnosed members in caring for their dogs. Goldsmith says, "I am humbled to be part of this wonderful group of caring, kind people. We are ALL about the dogs and giving safe, accurate suggestions."

The daily routine of caring for a diabetic dog is crucial. Goldsmith tests, feeds and gives Katie insulin twice a day, twelve hours apart. She also does home curves, which is testing every two hours to make sure the food and insulin are working together. Testing at home has huge advantages. Goldsmith says vets may charge \$150 or more for a test, and the stress of a vet visit can affect

glucose levels, so testing at home is more accurate and easier for all concerned. Over time, Goldsmith says, this routine becomes normal and poses no difficulties.

So how is little Katie doing? She's doing great. All her conditions are under control. Goldsmith takes Katie for "walks" by putting the pup in a stroller and, like all terriers, Katie is a strong-willed survivor and gets the most enjoyment out of every day.

What should you do if your dog is diagnosed with diabetes? Goldsmith has suggestions: "First, find a vet who is knowledgeable and experienced with diabetics, since medications are paramount. You can join our group and learn how to care for your dog. Canine diabetes is not a death sentence. It's one of the more manageable diseases your dog can get. You just need to learn all you can. Check out this informative blog written by an admin in the CDSI group. (<http://advocatemetters.com/blog/>) You will learn SO much about managing your diabetic dog."

As Goldsmith says, canine diabetes is not a death sentence. It is, however, a commitment. To the owner whose dog is newly diagnosed, it can seem overwhelming, which is why a good vet and a support group like the CDSI are so vital. Goldsmith says they can educate, teach testing, provide discounts for medical supplies, and give much-needed support.



Katie gets an injection

Goldsmith, certainly, has learned a lot since she began her journey with little Katie. Now she can do the test/feed/insulin injection in just ten minutes, but that's after a long learning curve. I asked Goldsmith what this experience has given her in return for her dedicated care.

"Katie gives me purpose. She has taught me patience. She has forced me to expand my knowledge about canine diabetes and her IBD. She's a special, loving little dog who just wants to hang out with us, go where we go.

She now has me walking more since we have the stroller. I just love this little girl and am so grateful she's in our lives."

And now we can be grateful that Goldsmith, Cooper and little Katie have blazed this trail to knowledge, to health and to a life with purpose. Yes, having a dog with special needs can be challenging; it can also be the most meaningful thing any of us might do.

Melissa Bowersock is an eclectic, award-winning author who writes in a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres. She lives in Camp Verde with Annie, her amazing Airedale. www.newmoonrising.net.



Katie

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Nick with Treo

Meet Treo, Our Cover Girl!

Photos by Nick Hunseder

Treo is a 3 ½ year old greyhound from Oklahoma. People notice she's a little different from other greyhounds, since she has three legs instead of four. Due to an accident

adoptions. Currently they perform home inspections for prospective GPA adopters.

Nick and Debbie own Nick of Time Productions, providing services for businesses including website development, social media presence, and graphic design services. Treo was Employee of the Month for June, 2019. Check their Facebook page to meet the Greyhounds. Each has (or will) gain an Employee of the Month award.

when she was a tiny pup her right front leg needed to be amputated. Treo doesn't seem to remember having four legs and gets along just fine. However, she never made the racing team. Despite missing her opportunity to star on the track, she stayed with her breeder until Nick and Debbie Hunseder visited when she was 15 months old. They watched her running and (like Treo) didn't notice that she was any different than the other dogs.

Treo moved to Clarkdale to join the Hunseders and their greyhound family, now totaling 10 retired racers and Treo. Her friends don't treat her as special, but she is. She's sweet, gentle, and loving her life.



The Hunseder Family

Their dogs range in age from 5 to 13 ½. They're fed a raw diet and enjoy the retired life. Asked why so many greyhounds, Nick says, "If you can see the floor, there's room for more!" And to a question about choosing to adopt a three-legged dog, he replied, "Three is the new four!" Disregarding Nick's humor, he is very serious about his love for greyhounds.

Nick of Time Productions www.nickoftimeproductions.com
 Greyhound Pets of Arizona www.gpa-az.com

Nick and Debbie Hunseder moved to Clarkdale in 2005 and began collecting greyhounds. They became active in the dog-friendly Clarkdale community. Debbie is on the Town Council and they've worked with town events. They support Greyhound Pets of Arizona (GPA). Debbie is on the Board and Nick is the Webmaster. They've travelled to many states to visit kennels and bring back dogs for local



Rufus with his new dad

Why Wouldn't I?

By Linda Brecher, Volunteer, Humane Society of Sedona

Colin arrived at the Sedona Humane Society from the Maricopa County Animal Shelter. Colin was special. He had only one eye, a missing toe, and another toe that needed to be removed due to a mass that caused a limp.

generous donations from many supporters enabled Colin to have his other eye removed, along with his toe. He also received a needed dental procedure.

I heard that a man was visiting Colin 3 or 4 times a day with the intent to adopt him when Colin was comfortable enough to go home. I met this guardian angel and thanked him for finding the love and care that Colin needed. His answer was, "Why wouldn't I?" A perfect response.

As a volunteer dog walker, my first encounter with this cream-colored Pekinese was on his second day. He still would not leave his crate and barely ate. I truly thought he was one we would not see for long. I knew the Humane Society of Sedona would do everything possible for this poor little dog. Money from our medical fund and

Colin, now named Rufus, left for his new life. That's what makes shelter volunteering so rewarding.

Note from Jennifer Brehler, Director, Humane Society of Sedona: Colin/Rufus is such a great little dog and Kirk is a wonderful doggie dad and now a HSS Volunteer!

**High Country Humane, Flagstaff, AZ,
928-526-0742**



STEDMAN Hello! My name is Stedman and I'm a handsome older senior. I came in with my friend Oprah and would love to be able to stay with her. We both have arthritis, though I can still move around fairly well. The nice vets here started me on pain management and it's been helping a lot! I almost feel 8 again! I love spending time with Oprah, cuddling with her, and loving my people. We are hoping that we can go to a home together, one that could try out acupuncture, or laser therapy for our arthritis. All we want is a warm comfy place to sleep, and someone to love us.

If you take us home, we'll love you forever! They are currently in foster, so if you would like to meet them give us a call to set up a meeting! Yellow Labrador Retriever. Large Senior Male

OPRAH Hi there! My name is Oprah and I'm a senior citizen Boxer mix that came in with my friend Stedman. The nice people here gave us both a physical exam and found out we both have arthritis. I sometimes have difficulty getting up and down beds, stairs, and just walking. They started me on pain management right away and it's definitely been helping! I love my friend Stedman and cuddle with him in our kennel and in the outside yard. We are hoping we can find a forever home together that will be able to provide some additional care for the arthritis such as acupuncture and laser therapy. We just need a home with a comfy bed to rest on for the remainder of our lives. If you have room in your home and hearts for us it will mean unconditional love and gratitude. - They are currently in foster, so if you'd like to meet them call to set up a meeting! Boxer Mix. Senior Female Medium.



**Humane Society of Sedona
humanesocietyofsedona.org
928.282.4679**

EMMETT Emmett is one of the many dogs and cats that were brought from Flagstaff shelters in July to make room for stray animals and those that needed to be housed during the Museum Fire. He is a three year old goofball--when he has a toy in his mouth, his tail won't stop wagging! He likes to chase bugs,

lizards and the shadows of birds in the sky, so he needs someone who can help re-direct his prey drive. Emmett needs to be the only animal in the family, and requires a strong handler as he is a solid tank of an American Pit Bull Terrier mix, but with his adoption fee sponsored, you can take him home today!

RYLEY Ryley was surrendered by his owner back in August as he was not able to care for him any longer due to a serious illness. He was very shy at first, missing his home and very afraid of male volunteers and staff. He will need time to get to know his new owners and trust that he will not be abandoned again. His salivary gland causes him irritation and will have to be removed, so this 2 year old Irish Wolfhound Shepard mix needs patience and lots of love. His adoption fee has been sponsored, so please come and give him a chance!



**Verde Valley Humane Society
verdevalleyhumanesociety.org
928-634-7487**



CASH
**Rottweiler Mix
Cottonwood, AZ**
Cash is a shy, sweet girl who is looking to settle into a quiet household. She has met some dog friends at the shelter and is

fun and bossy. Cash is shy when first meeting people so please be patient when you visit with her. Prefers a home without cats

LULU Senior
Lulu is a sweet girl found alone in the local mountains. She needs just short walks and would make a great companion.



ALTHEA Senior
Althea is a low maintenance, easy to walk, sweet gal.

HARRY Senior
Harry is very friendly with people and enjoys his walks.



MONTE Senior
Monte is friendly and fun! He loves to toss the ball around and naps are also high on his list.

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Clarkdale and the Copper Art Museum! Dog-Friendly!

By Amber Polo

A visit to Clarkdale feels like walking out of Arizona into a charming planned city with shady sidewalks that beg you to slow down. Clarkdale was a company town for smelter workers who processed the 100 billion pounds of copper dug from Mingus Mountain. Senator William Andrews Clark—copper magnate, railroad baron, and one of the richest men of the Gilded Age—bought the United Verde Copper Company mine in Jerome in 1888. When he decided to move his smelter further downhill in 1912, he built Clarkdale, Arizona’s first company town, between 1913 and 1930. Clarkdale included homes, a business district, a hospital, schools, and a town park as well as a clubhouse and pool.



Aerial View of Museum

Arizona Copper Art Museum

Don't miss The Arizona Copper Art Museum, the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to copper. Opened in 2012, it became one of Arizona's best loved attractions (according to travel websites).

It all began in 1958 when Pat Meinke began collecting and selling copper. In 2000 she chose Arizona for the site of a museum to house her over 1,500 artifacts: military art, cookware, religious art, drinkware, and winery and distillery equipment. Pat chose Clarkdale because of its smelting history. Learn about the magic of copper and enjoy the beautiful and utilitarian objects as you wander the 6 galleries filled with copper 6,000 copper items from 3,500 BC to the present.



Copper Museum

Unlike most museums, the Copper Museum loves dogs. Co-founder Drake Meinke says, “We’ve been dog-friendly since the day we opened seven years ago. We never had a dog cause a problem.” The Museum staff loves dogs so much they photograph visiting dogs and preserve their pictures in a museum

scrapbook and post the pictures on Facebook. Dogs show up in copper art and historical pieces. Touching allowed. The museum’s building opened in 1928 as Clarkdale’s high school (1928-1960). During the renovation to museum cat footprints were discovered in the concrete floor. According to “history” the cat dubbed Momento, whose footprints are now highlighted in copper, was the first student.

A mummified cat now called “Skeleton” was also found, but no curse has ever been encountered.



Credit Nick Hunseder

If you want to take home some copper, drive 4 miles up the mountain to Jerome and visit Copper Mountain Antiques and meet Pat Meinke.

If you want to take home some copper, drive 4 miles up the mountain to Jerome and visit Copper Mountain Antiques and meet Pat Meinke.

Dog Friendly Clarkdale

The Clarkdale Historical Society and Museum, 900 First North St., makes for another dog-friendly

stop. Take time to view stories and artifacts and talk with volunteers about the town’s unique history. And when you’re hungry choose Su Casa Mexican Restaurant’s dog-friendly patio, an outdoor table at Charlotte’s The Breakfast Place Cafe & Fudge, or Violette’s Bakery Café’s red caboose. Or pick up food and picnic in the town’s historic park gazebo.

Walk Clarkdale’s quiet residential streets and wander down to the John Bell Railroad Museum at the Verde Canyon Railroad Depot or to the Clark Memorial Clubhouse. Come back later without your dog for a ride on the railroad.

Drive out to dog-friendly Lower TAPCO River Access Point near Tuzigoot on the Verde River with boat launch and Sandy Beach.

Clarkdale is close to Tuzigoot National Monument, Jerome, and Old Town Cottonwood. Enjoy a respite from desert trails, view mountains and If you’re lucky listen to an old fashioned concert in the park.

Clarkdale, Arizona
<https://www.clarkdale.az.gov/>

Arizona Copper Art Museum
849 Main Street, Clarkdale, AZ
928 649-1858 Daily 10-5
www.coppermuseum.com



Kayaking dogs
Credit Ellen Jo Roberts

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CBD for Pets

By Amber Polo



You've heard about CBD. It certainly sounds like it works miracles. Your friends rave about results. Find it mixed with creams for various body parts, chocolate, and pet treats. Find it in bath bombs, candles, and Willie Nelson's Willy's Remedy Whole Bean Coffee with 5 mg CBD per cup. Your gas station, coffee shop, and beauty salon sell it. You want to try it on yourself. Or your pets.

What is CBD?

CBD (cannibidiol) is contained in the flowers and buds of marijuana or hemp plants. CBD does not produce intoxication. Marijuana's "high" is caused by the chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Thus, CBD will not cause pets to trip.

Cannabis plants and their use have been noted in archeology as far back as 12,000 years ago. The earliest evidence was found in Mongolia and Siberia. The first written record according to the DEA Museum is from 2727 BC. It has long been recognized that the plant had certain properties that could relieve pain, anxiety, nausea and could be used topically. In Chinese medicine, the flowers are recommended in the treatment of over 120 different forms of disease. The seeds are used widely from the treatment of tapeworms to topical use in wounds. The subspecies *Cannabis sativa* L. is hemp and has no psychoactive properties. This is the plant we are interested in veterinary medicine.

CBD is extracted from hemp, a plant legal in the United States since December 2018. CBD interacts with the endocannabinoid system (ECS) which affects sleep, pain, inflammation, seizures, and mood.

CBD oil usually contains only two ingredients - CBD dissolved in oil made from coconut or hemp seeds. CBD tinctures come in a

range of strengths. The higher the concentration, the higher the cost. CBD is expensive. For pets, CBD is available as a tincture to be taken orally, as topicals, and as treats.

Regulation

CBD is not regulated by the U.S. government. Therefore there's no way to know if a product contains the ingredients listed on the label or the potency advertised. It could be contaminated or may contain no CBD at all. Trustworthy U.S. sources follow sustainable and organic farming standards and provide third party lab tests.

Why Are Pet Owners Using It?

Pet owners observe CBD use improves the quality of their pets' lives without side effects. If CBD produces results that can be observed quickly, pet owners continue use and tell their friends.

Some issues often treated with CBD:

- Joint and chronic pain
- Skin and coat issues
- Fear and anxiety

CBD is also used for allergies, arthritis, digestive problems, diabetes, cancer, seizures and to strengthen the immune system. If you're not sure if CBD is appropriate for your dog or cat, talk with your veterinarian.

Q &A with Reed Scudder, DVM, The Village Vet, VOC

When should CBD treatment be considered?

R.S.: While there is no definitive scientific data on using CBD to treat dogs or cats, there is a wide range of positive testimony from pet owners suggesting it can treat ailments, such as neuropathy, seizures, pain, inflammation, stress, anxiety, and more. Dogs do have an endocannabinoid systems (ECS) just like humans. The ECS is a network of cellular activators and receptors in the body that regulate physiological processes, such as pain and inflammation. Therefore, it makes sense that CBD would be just as beneficial for pets as humans.

What about Dosing?

R.S.: Unfortunately, there is very little research on CBD and pets due to the dizzying array of laws and regulations on marijuana. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved CBD and has not issued a dosing chart. Just like humans the physiology of dogs can be complex, therefore subtle differences in dosing can have significant effects. Pet CBD supplements do come with a dosage chart based on the very limited studies done on dogs. Our advice is to follow the dosage recommended by the manufacturer of the product you choose.



Can CBD be used with other medications?

R.S.: CBD pet products appear to be safe to give with other medications. Again, refer to the manufacturer’s recommendation.

What’s the best way to administer CBD to pets?

R.S.: I feel that tinctures are the best way to administer CBD. The dosing can be adjusted drop by drop.

What about side effects?

R.S.: Once again, there is little known about the side effects of CBD in dogs due to inadequate research, but some of the side effects in humans are as follows: dry mouth (which can cause an increase in water consumption), drowsiness, and a brief lowering in blood pressure, which can cause dizziness.

The Bottom Line

R.S.: Despite the lack of research, I believe that CBD products are beneficial for dogs and cats, due to owner’s testimonies and the studies done at Colorado State University and Auburn University. Pet owners must educate themselves and do their own research on what would be best for their pet. Hopefully in the future, better studies will help the veterinary industry to fully understand the benefits of CBD for our furry friends.

Cinda Rajkovic, DVM, on CBD Studies

Cinda Rajkovic, DVM of Golden Bone Wellness notes that two studies have been completed at Colorado State University looking at CBD with osteoarthritis and seizures. Another study was completed at Cornell University for osteoarthritis in dogs with dosing

recommendations. Dr. Stephanie McGrath, a neurologist, who leads the studies at CSU also completed a study on the safety of transdermal and oral CBD in 30 beagles. The AKC is sponsoring a third study at CSU on the effects of CBD in dogs with epilepsy which will be a three-year study since the first study results were very promising. Dr. McGrath also thinks CBD may aid in the treatment of autoimmune diseases. It has been noted that CBD may also have anti-cancer effects.

Pet owners may ask why there have not been more studies. Hemp has been tied up in the same class as the psychoactive cannabis with a Schedule 1 DEA controlled substance classification. This changed when Congress passed the 2014 Farm Bill containing a provision to grow and cultivate industrial hemp for research purposes with hemp containing <0.3% THC (the ingredient that can cause psychoactive effects).

Dr. Raikovic says, “My take on all of this information is, in short, that CBD has great promise in Veterinary Medicine. Since its legalization, many companies have started producing CBD tincture, topical ointments, and creams. Some of the extraction processes are not as clean as others and some have potentially harmful residues. It is important to consult your veterinarian prior to using any CBD product and to make sure a product is made from organic plants and has no residues, such as butane or hexane. It is exciting to see this ancient drug come to the forefront so researchers can unveil all the medicinal uses that could help our animal family members live better lives.”

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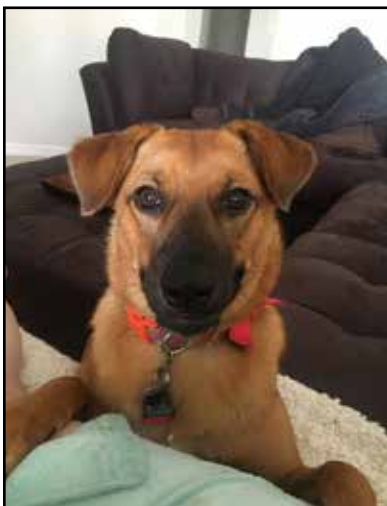
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Cory Shilling - Cottonwood Police Department's New Canine Instructor

By Amber Polo



K-9 Officer Shilling and Kratos
credit Candy Gemmill Photography

In March 2019 Officer Cory Shilling became a Canine Instructor certified by the National Police Canine Association. An officer with Cottonwood Police Department for 11 years, Shilling has been a K9 officer for 9 years. He's now working with Kratos, his third K9 partner, a Dutch Shepherd/Malinois cross.

Candidates for Canine Instructor are tested on their ability to assess dogs and handlers and help K9 teams to become certified for Apprehension and Narcotics work and

to continue to maintain and improve skills. The four-week training leading to certification was held at the Waddell Kennels in Waddell, Arizona under the leadership of Ralph Prendergast and Mark Green, both with exceptional credentials in training dogs for police work.

Police Dog Apprehension and Narcotics Work:

- Apprehension: (What most people consider the exciting part.) A dog flies through the air and chomps down on the very-padded arm of a volunteer in a bite suit (think the Michelin Tire icon). Plus search and basic tracking.
- Narcotics: includes scent work detection most frequently in vehicles as well as inside schools and hotels

Officer Shilling says the ability to read the dog and the handler in order to train a successful team is the most important skill an instructor needs. In addition to training K9 teams, he's qualified to teach case law, search and seizure procedures, and eCollar use. Shilling believes that the basis for all training is basic obedience. Training for both K9 officers and K9 dogs is ongoing. To keep certifications valid, teams are required to devote 32 hours a month to training.

Shilling currently helps train K9 officers with Sedona Police Department, Camp Verde Marshal's Office, Yavapai Sheriff's Office, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and Williams Police Department (all departments with only one K9 team) working on ongoing training as well as with new dogs and new K-9 officers. Now, with the benefit of his instructor certification, the courtroom testimony of the officers he works with carries more validation.

A Training Problem Solved

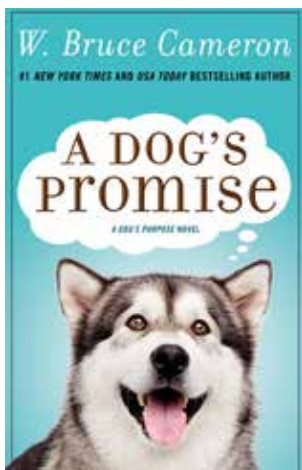
One example of Shilling's work training was with Officer Jeff Bowers of the Camp Verde Marshal's Office. Bowers' dog Claymore was certified for Narcotics but need to be certified for Apprehension. Shortly before the certification test, Claymore developed a habit of responding to the verbal "Out" or off command, and then going for another bite. His high prey drive and high intelligence got in the way of performing in a manner that would assure his certification. Shilling and Bowers brain-stormed solutions and Shilling tried everything he'd learned from other trainers and his own experience. Finally out of options, Shilling decided to return to basic obedience work. He had Bowers work Claymore on leash using basic obedience commands for an hour. Then Shilling donned the bite suit. Claymore performed flawlessly. And passed his certification the next week. Problem solving with an understanding of the dog paid off.

As expected, Officer Shilling has always loved animals, especially dogs. He credits Buckshot, his German Shorthaired Pointer, for giving him the initial experience of training a super-smart dog and learning to work as a team with a dog that was superior at his job. His current pet is Remi, a smart three-year-old female Vizsla, whose work is being a superior pet.

Gareth Braxton-Johnson, Commander, Cottonwood Police Department says, "The handler/canine team is a tried and tested partnership in law enforcement that has been proven to be invaluable over the years. This instructor certification for Officer Shilling was a personal and professional goal of his for some time, and one in which our community, and Officer Shilling will see the benefits for years to come."



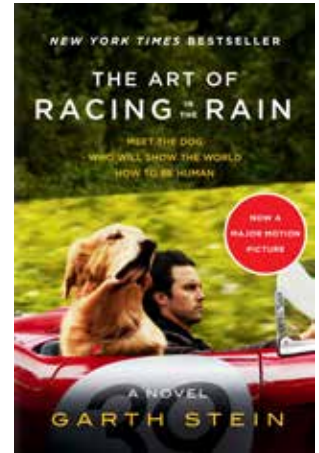
Kratos credit Candy Gemmill Photography



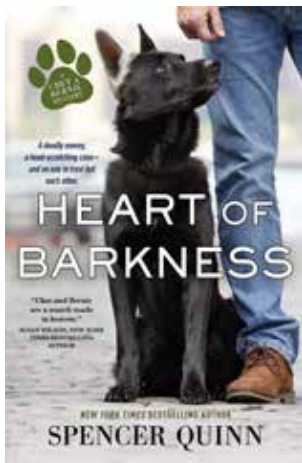
**“A Dog’s Promise”
By W. Bruce Cameron
(October 15, 2019)**

“A Dog’s Promise” is Cameron’s newest Dog’s Purpose novel. Like the original “A Dog’s Purpose” it stars Bailey whose lives began in “A Dog’s Purpose” and continued in “A Dog’s Journey” (both books and movies). Now old soul Bailey’s back and ready to experience more purpose-driven lives. Cameron’s heartfelt style merges tenderness, humor, and wisdom as Bailey is helped by Lacey, a new dog. W. Bruce Cameron is the top-selling author of dog books globally! And, of course, there will be another movie.

**“Racing in the Rain”
by Garth Stein**



Any dog lover that missed seeing the recent movie debut of “Racing in the Rain” needs to reread the book before the movie is available for streaming and on DVD. For a special treat, listen to the audiobook. Note: there are 2 audio versions: the original (the same as the book) and a shorter family version. Since the entire book is from Enzo’s point of view, listening to a dog think and complain about not having thumbs takes readers into the mind of a smart and loyal dog.

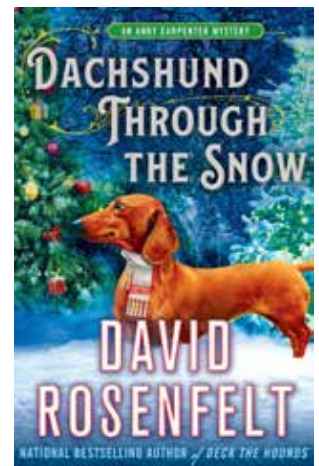


**“Heart of Barkness”
by Spenser Quinn
(A Chet and Bernie mystery, 2019)**

Chet, as philosophical as Enzo in his own way, and funnier, narrates another mystery through canine eyes. Chet and his (human) partner private investigator Bernie Little. Since both are music lovers, the partners take on a case in the country music world.

David Rosenfelt has two new Andy Carpenter mysteries: “Bark of Night” and “Dachshund through the Snow.”

Rosenfelt is the author of the Andy Carpenter mysteries, with nine books in the series. Dog lovers and mystery lovers alike follow Andy’s work to help clients and help dogs through his Tara Foundation. The Rosenfelts’ real life Tara Foundation has placed over 4,000 dogs in loving homes and continues to be active in the rescue community. He is also the author of two non-fiction books: “Dogtripping: 25 Rescues, 11 Volunteers and 3 RVs on Our Canine Cross-Country Adventure” and “Lessons from Tara; Life Advice from the World’s Most Brilliant Dog.”

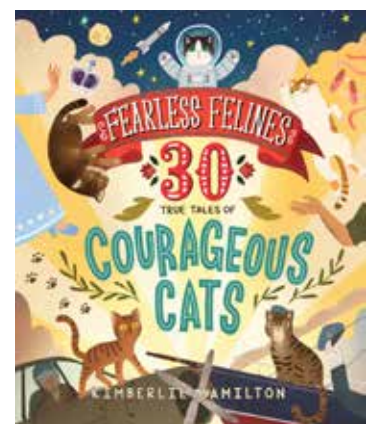


**“Katt vs. Dogg”
By James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein.**

A book written for middle grade kids but too much fun not to be shared with the entire family. Oscar is a happy go lucky dogg who (along with his dogg family) thinks katts are good for nothing but chasing up trees. Molly is an aspiring-actress katt who, like her dogg hating family, despises drooly disgusting doggs. A laugh-out-loud story of cooperation over prejudice. With brilliant cartoon illustrations.

**“Fearless Felines: 30 True Tales of Courageous Cats”
by Kimberlie Hamilton
(Scholastic, November 5, 2019)**

Delightful cat stories like the Scottish cat Pyro who flew with RAF pilots in WWII. Plus amazing cat facts that will make cat lovers purr and dog lovers laugh. “It a cat sneezes, rain is on the way.” “Put a cat whisker in your wallet to attract money.” Charming illustrations by 17 artists. For ages 8 and up (and up).



Music & Audiobooks Calm Anxious Dogs

By Amber Polo

Our dogs want to be close to us, but often our lives over-stimulate them. Traffic, electronics, TV, radio, and music provide a cacophony of noise. In addition, separation anxiety is high on the list of behavior problems that trouble dogs and their caregivers.

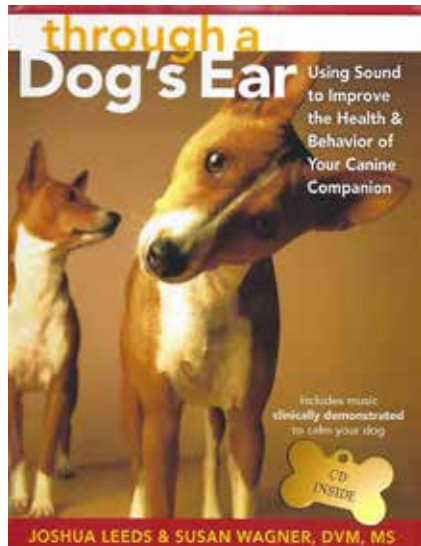
Some people turn on a TV or radio when they leave dogs alone. Yet programs change and can be interrupted by commercials.

Hertz (Hz) is a measure of frequency one cycle per second. Humans hear at 19-31,000 Hz; Dogs (depending on breed and age): 44-64,000 Hz; Cats: 55-77,000 Hz.

Music Studies

It's been proven music affects our heart rate, blood pressure, brain waves, and breathing. Studies show some of the same music that relaxes humans can help relieve anxiety issues in our pets.

A study done in Ireland by Dr. Deborah Wells, psychologist and animal behaviorist, tested types of music on shelter dogs. "Classical music resulted in dogs spending more of their time resting and also resulted in a significantly lower level of barking," while heavy metal music agitated the dogs.



Joshua Leeds and Susan Wagner DVM, authors of "Through a Dog's Ear," took the research further and created a series of clinically tested recordings designed to calm both you and your dog. Tested on more than 150 dogs in various environments, some tracks are designed to calm your pet and reduce anxiety while other tracks, a little more stimulating, please both human and canine ears.

In Part 1 of the study researchers learned not all classical music offered the same results. Crashing cymbals aren't the same as a piano sonata. They claim 50-70 beats per minute is ideal and slow simple music, solo instruments at a low volume, produced the most calming results.

Part 2 focused on specific anxiety issues. 70% of anxiety issues (in 10 dogs) were reduced with the psycho-acoustically designed music compared to 36% using a control CD of standard classical music.

Audiobooks for Dogs

Audiobooks may not make dogs smarter, but might make them calmer. Dogs love to be talked to, so it's not surprising some dogs love audiobooks. One study in shelters in the UK showed voice recordings were more calming than music.

One audiobook can provide hours of talk with no commercials. Many have only one narrator. If the owner is female choose a woman's voice and if male a man's. Or if the dog is used to living with a group, try multiple narrators. You can even match the accent of the owner. In general, select a book that imitates human company, has nice energy, but is not too exciting.



Audible, the largest audio book producer and retailer in the U.S., and Cesar Millan's Cesar's Way Inc. conducted an in-home study with 100 volunteers. Participants left home while dogs listened to a book and returned after at least a one-hour period. They recorded their dog's behavior daily. Results showed that on 27 out of the 28 days tested, dogs exhibited positive behavior after audiobook play periods.

What books would your dog like? Audible.com offers some recommendations: The Art of Racing in the Rain (of course), A Dog's Purpose, Soldier Dogs, and To Kill a Mockingbird (perhaps more a cat book?).

Reduce Stress with Recordings

Your dog feels your anxiety, so reducing your own stress is good for your pets. Also consider:

- Reducing the volume of electronic devices and TVs
- Using only one devices at a time
- Reducing controllable noise
- Choosing music with a solo instrument at a low volume
- Providing a place for pets to get away from noise

Turn on music or voice recording long before you leave or when the dog is NOT exhibiting anxiety, so the music will not be associated with your exit or with the anxiety provoking situation or sounds.

Neither dogs nor cats can wear earphones or choose their music, so you need to select and play their favorite music or stories. You can even record your own voice reading a favorite book.

How to play music or audiobooks

- Use a CD player and put a CD on repeat or play multiple CDs
- Plug an iPod/MP3 into a speaker
- Use a Smart Speaker: Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, or Apple's Siri

Also see the August-September issue of Flagstaff-Sedona Dog for "Cats and Music" on p. 7.

Resources:

"Through a Dog's Ear: Using Sound to Improve the Health & Behavior of Your Canine Companion" by Joshua Leeds and Susan Wagner, DVM (Sounds True)

www.iCalmPet.com formerly www.ThroughaDogsEar.com for music #AudibleforDogs

Spotify blog playlists

"Cesar Millan's Guide to Audiobooks for Dogs" available from Audible as an audiobook

Stores for Animal Rescue

2

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Oct. 26-27, 2019 • Nov. 2-3, 2019

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1



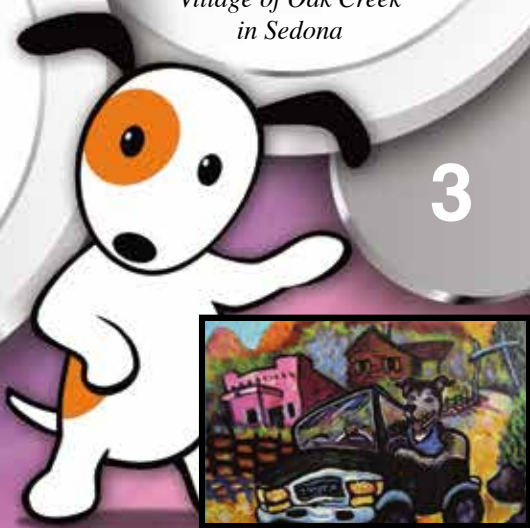
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3

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Pet-Friendly Travel in SE Montana

Stacey Wittig

Southeastern Montana's big skies lift the hearts of outdoors people and their pooches, indoors folks and their fur babies and road trippers from all over the world. Here are the best places in Southeastern Montana for those who travel with pets:

The Bighorn River is renowned for fly-fishing, but even if you're not a fisher person, the river is a fantastic place to recreate and birdwatch. We saw plenty of Sandhill cranes, osprey, Red-tailed Hawks and more. **Bighorn River View Lodge and Cabins** in Fort Smith, Montana, are so dog-friendly, they won't charge extra for your four-legged traveling companions. flyfishingthebighorn.com



English setters on Bighorn River

Please be aware that at the nearby **Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument**, pets are not allowed on trails or in any building. They are allowed on the sidewalk on the north side of the road but must be on a leash no longer than six-feet long. Because of its popularity, (thousands of people visit the Custer Battlefield each year) we thought it should be mentioned here that if you go, you may want to make arrangements for your pets to stay with a pet sitter. www.nps.gov/libi/planyourvisit/pets.htm

Trust me; you'll want to spend more time than planned in the five-star rated **Powder River Historical Museum** in Broadus. But no worries – you and your furry companions can extend your stay at **Sagebrush Inn and Suites** in this friendly Montana community. Unleash your taste buds with ample portions of Montana-grown beef at local restaurants like the Powder River Stockman's Club. broaduslodging.com



Red Lodge Montana

Sift for dinosaur bones with paleontologists at **Carter County Museum** in Ekalaka and then head out to Medicine Rocks State Park for a magical sunset with your sweet pup. You can't help but feel the spirit of this place as you

wander among the strangely-shaped hoodoos that stand in the expansive prairie. The amazing museum is part of Montana's Dinosaur Trail. cartercountymuseum.org

Relive the Old West at the longest continually operated hotel in Montana, the **Kempton Hotel** in Terry, where four-legged guests are always welcome. Discover plenty of wide-open photo ops and places to play at nearby Terry Badlands, designated a Wilderness Study Area by the Bureau of Land Management. Don't miss **Prairie Unique**, where you'll find Montana-made foods, home décor and gifts. kemptonhotel.net



Trail to Yellowstone

Circle back west towards pet-friendly Billings where you'll find opportunities galore to walk with your dogs. Try the stretch of trail along the rim tops overlooking the largest city in Montana. We met many local dogs walking their humans on the path to Yellowstone Kelly's grave. Check it out at www.visitbillings.com

A special expedition to **Lewis and Bark's Outpost** in Red Lodge is worth the trip. Knowledgeable owners offer advice, high-quality pet foods and delightful West Paw products (among others.) West Paw, a Montana-based specialist, fashions dog beds and toys with sustainable materials and eco-friendly processes whenever possible. Products, tested by a four-legged "chew squad," can be recycled by sending them back to the company. How cool is that? www.redlodge.com

Stacey Wittig is a travel writer based near Flagstaff. Follow her Montana adventures at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com



Stacey Wittig



David A. Kovalik, DVM

SEDONA ANIMAL CLINIC

(928) 282-4133

100 Posse Ground Road
Sedona, AZ 86336

www.sedonaanimalclinic.com

CATS FOR ADOPTION

Humane Society of Sedona
humanesocietyofsedona.org 928.282.4679



CASSIDY is a sweet kitty who was adopted from the shelter as a kitten and was sadly returned. Her previous guardian noted that no matter what Cassidy will not be an indoor only kitty. She loves to be indoor and outdoor and is much happier when she has access to the outdoors. For this reason, we are looking for a home for Cassidy where she can be an indoor/outdoor kitty. She lived with a dog previously and is noted as being playful, sweet and loves toys! She also gets along with most other cats

after a proper introduction. She is pretty shy here at the shelter. She has only ever lived in her previous home and is pretty overwhelmed to be back at the shelter. We hope you will give Cassidy a chance and come down to meet her today! She is up to date on her vaccines (at Oak Creek Small Animal Clinic), microchipped, and spayed. See you soon :)!



TOMMY & HIS SISTER BEBE

came in after their guardian passed away. They are a bonded pair & must go home together. They are very sweet, cuddly kitties who love sitting in laps & snuggling. They were clearly very loved by their previous guardian as they are warm, happy & social. Tommy just got a full dental but Bebe still needs hers. Come meet these two. They are wonderful & get along with other cats.



Bebe & her brother Tommy came in after their guardian passed away. They are a bonded pair & must go home together. They are very sweet, cuddly kitties who love sitting in laps & snuggling. They were clearly very loved by their previous guardian as they are warm, happy & social. Tommy just got a full dental but Bebe still needs hers. Come meet these two. They are wonderful & get along with other cats.

Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



MR. SQUIRREL, a 7 year-old- male. Mr. Squirrel is a handsome, declawed, playful, cuddle-cat who may just choose you to spend his life with. Mr. Squirrel requires a special diet due to the formation of crystals in his urine. Prefers a home without dogs.



TATSU, a 10-year-old-male. Tatsu is an incredibly sweet older man who's looking for a quiet place to settle down where he can be the only cat. Tatsu is currently in foster, so please call the shelter at to schedule a meeting.

We Love Hummers!

The Hummingbird Society is a non-profit organization dedicated solely to hummingbirds. Our mission: to teach about them and to work internationally to protect the ones at risk of extinction.



Learn more about us at our website:
www.hummingbirdsociety.org

Photo courtesy Sedona Hummingbird Gallery

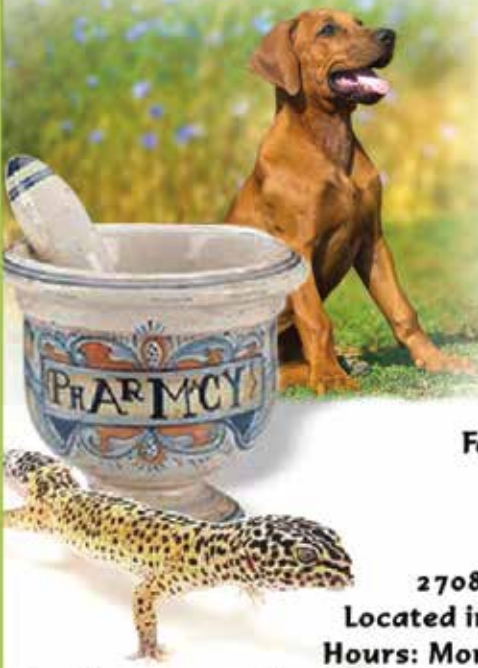
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The Hummingbird Society www.hummingbirdsociety.org
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Saving Niko

by Carol Gandolfo

In April 2007 I went to the Orange County Pet Show in Costa Mesa to meet national radio celebrity, Warren Eckstein, The Pet Show host. While I waited I wandered over to the cat show. The first building had a large sign “Adoptions” and since we already had three Persians, I figured it would be safe to go inside.

I wandered the aisles looking at forlorn animals. I spotted a sign “Helping Persians.” Having never seen a stray Persian, I walked up. Full-grown cats in cages looked bored. And near the donation basket a cage held one of the most pathetic cats I’d ever seen. He was pale apricot and white and had been completely shaved, except for a small frill at the end of his tail. Ribs showed through his emaciated body. The nametag read King Louie. His smashed-in face looked up at me with large golden eyes. He raised his paw, reached out, and meowed. He was so pitiful, my heart ached. I pulled out my lunch money, a measly five dollars, and placed it in the basket. I grabbed a brochure, determined to send more money to Helping Persians Cats.



I met Warren and his lovely wife, Denise, and drove home. When my husband called from his business trip, I told him about Helping Persians and the wretched little cat. Rick asked, “Did you get him?” Well, as every husband knows (or should know), never say something like that to your wife.

The next day, I called Helping Persians. They said King Louie was not available. Undeterred, I said we would be interested in adopting a Persian and I filled out the form telling about the many Persians we had since first finding Cinnamon, famous for his “Wet Cat” poster. Soon I was told King Louie was available. After a couple of false starts and an illness scare, we adopted the scrawny cat. We drove to Santa Monica to pick him up. Rick reached into the cage and the cat immediately cuddled into his arms.



On the way home, we renamed him Niko. Niko had been dumped at a shelter and left to die. Ironically, a shelter in Irvine just a mile from our home. They distinctly remembered the little Persian so matted he could barely move, and so sick an emergency call was placed to Helping Persians and he’d spent over two weeks in the hospital with a life-threatening cold.

Niko turned out to be one of the sweetest cats we owned. He got along with the other cats. As we lost a couple to old age and acquired new ones, Niko remained the sweet boy we adopted. Every once in a while, he again came down with a cold. Medications worked somewhat, but the best solution was to turn on the humidifier and heat the congestion from his lungs.

When Niko was about nine, he learned to walk on leash and we took him with us around Sedona. Many people laughed at the flat-faced cat who appeared to have run into a wall, but his sweet, friendly nature quickly won them over.

Congestion continued to be an issue and Rick would often sleep in a bathroom with the humidifier, holding Niko. Leaving him alone only led to screaming and clawing at the door. Once we covered a cat carrier and ran the humidifier directly into it. Having him close should have solved the problem. Not the case. He screamed and clawed at the cage door until he tore a toe. The next day the vet drained his lungs. He came home, breathing better. And with a bandaged toe.

In 2018 Niko became sick again. Our vet had retired and other treatments were recommended. To no avail. By the time we got to Dr. McKinney at Oak Creek Animal Clinic it was too late. Nothing helped. He spent two days on oxygen before we made the painful decision to let him go. Little Niko was with us for ten years. We will never forget the little peach Persian who loved to play with his ball in the circle—even at midnight.

Carol Gandolfo is a painter, photographer, and clinical psychologist. She lives in Sedona with her husband Rick and four cats.

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Thousand Trails RV Park
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Tumbleweed Veterinary Clinic
Verde Valley Humane Society
Verde Valley Senior Center
Verde Veterinary Hospital

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CAL Ranch Stores
Canyon Pet Hospital
Coconino Humane Society
Coconino Vet Clinic
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Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Flagstaff Mall Information Kiosk
Flagstaff Nissan Subaru
Flagstaff Pulliam Airport
Flagstaff Vision
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Kit Carson RV Park
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Olsen's Grain
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PetSmart Employee
Lounge(PlazaWay)
Ponderosa Crematory
Pro-Groom
Safeway Market(Plaza Way)
Smith's Mountain View Hay & Feed
The Peaks Senior Living (Lounge)
The Toasted Owl Café Downtown
The Toasted Owl Café East
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Veterinary ER Center
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Grand Canyon RR Hotel and Kennel
KOA Circle Pines Campground
KOA Grand Canyon
Railside RV Ranch - ON LEFT
Safeway Market
Williams Feed & Pet Co.
Williams Public Library
Williams Vet Clinic
Williams Visitor & Infor Ctr



HOW A DOG WALKS

*A dog walks with his nose.
From dry-piled leaves
to weedy stalks, he lunges this
nose into odorous delights,
scratches in gravel
to release buried scents.
Like an old man
who ambles down
crowded streets, pauses
to read old advertisements,
placards and headlines
littering the gutters,
the dog reads these sniffs
to catch up on
neighborhood events, the scandals
and the celebrations.
Then, like the rest of us
who sign the guest book
at a favorite inn,
he adds a signature
before rambling on.*

~ Ann Metlay

Calendar Of Events and Regional Shelters, Rescues, and Sanctuaries

Red Rose Arts & Craft Shows - October 12 & 13, Oct 26 & 27, Nov 2 & 3; Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Parking lot of Olde Sedona Bar & Grill and Red Rock Precision Motors, Benefits Red Rose Inspiration for Animals, 1405 Hwy 89A, West Sedona.

Oct 12 Call of the Wild Mural Family Fun Day 12 – 6 PM An art for advocacy project where people of all ages paint, write, and draw their messages of support for wolves, wildlife, & the Endangered Species Act. Music by Thunder & Lightnin'! Free. Plan B to Save Wolves in partnership with Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project Heritage Square, 6 W Aspen Ave, Flagstaff.

Oct 12 - Greyhound Picnic. 11-3 - Greyhound games, lunch, and speaker. Greyhounds of the Verde Valley, American Heritage Academy, Cottonwood. Speaker Dr. Cinda Rajkovic. Reservations 623 218-3657.

Oct. 19th Biker Dawgs Run. Ride for Rescue. Registration Babe's Roundup, Camp Verde at 9:00 am. Hosted by the Modified Motorcycle Association – Verde Valley. End Moose Lodge, Clarkdale. Proceeds to Central Arizona Animal Search & Rescue (CAASR). Alan 928 274-8939

Oct 20 Jerome Humane Society Brunch & Auction. Amazing food, famous Bloody Marys, live & silent auction, Music by the Jerome Ukulele Orchestra. Tickets on sale at Nellie Bly, at the clinic, or from Sally and the crew.

Nov. 10th Paws for the Perfect Taste 1-4 pm, to benefit High Country Humane, Flagstaff
Tickets \$50 per person/\$60 the day of the event
Order online www.highcountryhumane.org

December 7th 9-1 Deck the Paws Holiday Bazaar – Gifts! Original Arts & Crafts. Santa and Mrs. Santa. Bake Sale, Live Radio Remote. Benefits Verde Valley Humane Society. Cottonwood Community Clubhouse. 805 Main Street Old Town Cottonwood.

ONGOING EVENTS

VVHS Volunteer Orientations Continues 2nd Thurs and Saturday of each month. Download application at www.verdevalleyhumanesociety.org/volunteer/ Questions call the Verde Valley Humane Society, 928 634-PETS or email MClark@VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org

HSS Volunteer Orientations Thursday October 17 - 10:00 -12:00, and October 19 - 10:00 12:00 pm Learn about the volunteer opportunities available. A \$15 donation covers the cost of the manual, name badge, and t-shirt. Complete the on the HSS website and select the date you would attend.

Yoga with Cats October 4 - 4:00-5:00 pm. Experience the most unique yoga class in Sedona! Shelter cats roam around to help you reach Zen. Continues the first Thursday of each month at Humane Society of Sedona shelter. Call for questions or to pay for your ticket by phone: 928-282-4679. Or register and pay online.

REGIONAL SHELTERS, RESCUES, AND SANCTUARIES

Animal Guardian Network
Healing Ranch & Farm Sanctuary
Camp Verde, AZ (602) 568-5636
www.animalguardiannetwork.org

Ark Cat Sanctuary
Parks, AZ
(928) 635-5909
www.arkcatsanctuary.org

Central Arizona Animal Search & Rescue (CAASR)
Offsite adoptions
Camp Verde, AZ
(520) 921-9974
centralarizonaanimalsearchandr.godaddysites.com

Coconino Humane Association
Onsite & Offsite Adoptions
3501 E. Butler Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ
(928) 526-1076
www.coconinohumane.org

Golden Bone Rescue & Rehab
Offsite Adoptions
Sedona, AZ (928) 567-8994
www.dogadoptionrescue.com

High Country Humane
Onsite & offsite adoptions
11665 N. Hwy 89, Flagstaff, AZ
(928) 526-0742
www.highcountryhumane.org

Humane Society of Central Arizona
Onsite & offsite adoptions
605 W. Wilson Ct., Payson, AZ
(928) 474-5590
www.HumaneSocietyCentralAZ.org

Humane Society of Sedona
Onsite & offsite adoptions
2115 Shelby Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336
(928) 282-4679
www.humanesocietyofsedona.org

“Breed Rescues” and “Equine Rescues and Shelters” listings can be found on the Flagstaff-Sedona Dog website. At www.flagstaffsedonadog.com under “Pet Adoption Agencies”

Humane Society of the White Mountains
Onsite & Offsite Adoptions
3212 N. Porter Mountain Rd, Lakeside, AZ
(928) 368-5295
www.hswm.org

Jerome Humane Society
Offsite Adoptions
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Clinic: (928) 634-6166
Appointments: (928) 235-5960
www.jeromehumanesociety.com

Morning Starr Animal Sanctuary & Affordable Spay Neuter Clinic
Cornville, AZ
(928) 821-2420
www.morningstarr.org

Northern Arizona Animal Search & Rescue (NAASR)
Offsite adoptions
Flagstaff AZ
928-606-4949
www.facebook.com/NorthernArizonaAnimalSanR.org

Raven Pines Dog Rescue
Offsite adoptions
Cordes Lakes, AZ (602) 339-1797
ravenpines@commspeed.net

Red Rose Inspiration for Animals
Offsite adoptions
Sedona, AZ (928) 282-5278
www.redroseinspiration.org

SAVE Meant to Rescue
Williams, AZ (928) 635-4726
www.williamsrescue.com

Tuba City Humane Society
Offsite Adoptions
(928) 793-2364
www.tubacityhumanesociety.org

Verde Valley Humane Society
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Comfi Cottages of Flagstaff
(888) 774-0731
www.comficottages.com

Comfort Inn Camp Verde
340 Goswick Way, Camp Verde
(877) 477-8004

Days Inn and Suites
3601 E. Lockett Road, Flagstaff
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Barklee, a Magical Friend

by Alice Klies

We purchased our Saint Bernard to watch over our preemie daughter on her second birthday. He became her everything. Our daughter named him Barklee, after the dog on Sesame Street. He ended up weighing almost two hundred pounds.

Barklee's sainthood proved valuable because his undying patience and tolerance with our two year old was a necessity. He bathed in her wading pool, wore bonnets, booties, bracelets, and ribbons; and he looked adorable in shawls and dishtowels. He became our daughter's first bronco ride and even allowed special haircuts from the play scissors she wielded in her tiny hands.

Their favorite pastimes were romps in our backyard acreage. Most of the time Barklee would cruise sharp around a tree, turn the tables on our little one, and start chasing her. Often he was successful in pulling her diaper down to her knees. Our daughter's giggles and screeching could be heard for miles!



All too soon their bond of eight years declined. We noticed our noble and beautiful giant began to have difficulty getting up and down. He would look at us with his dark brown eyes, cock his head, and place his nose between his massive paws.

"It's okay," our daughter would tell him. "Maybe we'll play tomorrow when you feel better."

As suddenly as it started, it didn't get better and before too long our vet informed us, "There is just nothing more I can do."

We've owned lots of dogs, but there is something extra hard watching such a powerful animal of size stare at you with eyes that said "It's time. I'm okay with this. I really hurt."



Saying goodbye is so hard. When I hear people say, "It's just a dog," my fist folds tight. Not just a dog; but a magical friend who has brought more joy to our lives and more unconditional love one might ever understand. And...because we believe in the Rainbow Bridge that will greet all of our furry friends, we are able to let go, with the promise we will see our amazing friends again.

Alice Klies is currently the president of Northern Arizona Word Weavers, a chapter of International Word Weavers for writers that meets in Cottonwood. Alice is published in nine Chicken Soup For the Soul books and twenty anthologies and is the author of a novel, Pebbles in My Way. Her website is aliceklies.com

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There is no doubt that the veterinary staff have unique and challenging jobs. At VESCONA, our team brings together 30 years of combined knowledge, skills, and experience. They strive to provide excellent patient care on an emergency basis. Obtaining samples for diagnostic testing, taking radiographs, assisting in surgery, monitoring anesthesia, and documenting patient activities and vitals are some of the many tasks our veterinary technicians take on during their shifts.

At VESCONA, the veterinary staff include Mika, Amy, Dani, Christine, Zack, Krissy and Erica.

Mika is new to the field of emergency veterinary medicine, but with excellent mentors she hopes to further her education and one day become a CVT. Mika believes that the greatest reward of the job is making a positive difference in not only the pets' life, but also being able to educate and console pet owners. Mika has a Papillon, Australian Shepherd, Pitbull/Boxer mix, and 60 chickens.

Amy has been in the veterinary field for over 20 years, including her work as a volunteer to both local and national rescue organizations and shelters. Amy currently works in both general practice and emergency medicine. Amy has two Basenjis, a Pudelpointer, and a cat.

Dani is our technician manager. She is a certified veterinary technician and has been in the veterinary field for over 10 years. Her love for animals started as a child in Phoenix, where she and her family raised horses, sheep, cows, chickens, dogs, and cats. She is enjoying life in Flagstaff with her 3 Australian Shepherds, 5 goats, and 20 chickens.

Christine has moved through many roles in the animal care industry from SPCA volunteer to Animal Caretaker, and now as her current position as Certified Veterinary Technician. Having worked primarily in general practice, Christine is excited to advance her knowledge and training in emergency medicine. Christine has a feisty Chihuahua and a mouse. She believes the most rewarding part of working in the field is providing comfort and reassurance to animals and treating them as if they were her own.

Zack is a Certified Veterinary Assistant, and has experience working with not only dogs and cats, but with exotics as well. Zack believes that "animals are as special as we are as people and we are lucky to be able to experience the amazing qualities and unconditional love they bring to our lives...they all deserve an amazing life." Zack has one pet, Sasha, who is Labrador/Pitbull mix.

Krissy is a certified veterinary technician who has been in the field for many years. Throughout the years Krissy has dedicated time to various rescue groups. Krissy has a Corgi/Shepherd mix Dexter, and two cats, Corky and Nash.

Erica has been in the veterinary field for several years. She loves to work in emergency medicine but also enjoys working in general practice on the side. Erica hopes to continue her education to become an equine veterinarian.



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National Veterinary Technician Week is celebrated October 13th-19th this year. This week provides an opportunity to celebrate veterinary technicians and recognize all their contributions and hard work. Remember to stop and thank a veterinary technician for their helping hands and caring hearts!