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# FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG

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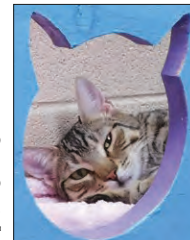
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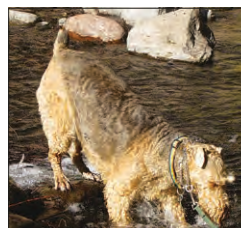
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Hello Everyone!



There's always room for one more – right? Ask any rescuer, and they will tell you the same.

I am honored to continue my friend's work as publisher of *Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine*. Our local Arizona company, Red Dog Publishing, LLC publishes the *Prescott Dog Magazine*, *Kidz Zone Magazine* and now the *Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine*.

All the kudos and gratitude imaginable to our editor, Amber Polo for, her patience and providing the “heavy lifting” in the last couple of editions; helping to bring *Flagstaff-Sedona Dog* under the Red Dog Publishing banner. We appreciate everything she has done to make the transition smooth.

Admittedly, I had been a “Crazy Dog Lady” before I even knew that was even a thing, orchestrating my first rescue at age ten. “We just can't leave her here, Mom, can't WE take her home?” Freckles was rescued from the church picnic and five weeks later blessed our family with ten little black-and-white darlings that looked just like their mom. (All of the puppies were later homed with their forever families.)

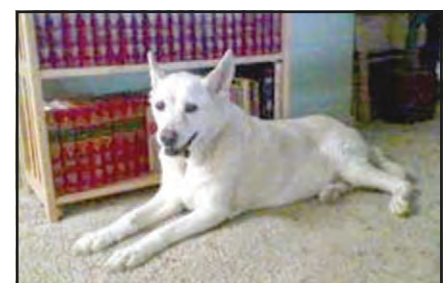
Many dogs have come and gone since that time almost 45 years ago. What's never changed is my will to see that the animals we've been given are stewarded properly. That includes: dogs, cats, horses, exotics, our livestock, and nature's wild—including those that society deems unworthy. Though I have distain for snakes, I spoke out against “Rattlesnake Round-ups” occurring in Texas while I lived there.

My inspiration to create a magazine like “the dog” came back in 2006 as a way to connect the dog community, elevate awareness of homeless pets, celebrate “all things dog,” and honor one of the “dogs of my life”—K.D. Bear. You can read about her on page 26 of this edition. People always joke, “Who rescued who?” Without a doubt, she rescued me.

In the coming editions you'll see a few new features in the magazine, more available pets, and more news from the dog world around Northern Arizona. I look forward to running into you around town: at the groomers, the vet clinic or the café. Readers' stories are wonderful motivators for myself and our many writers that cover topics from “How-To's?” to police dogs, to the Man-VS-Horse competition to premature kittens. If it's happening in the animal world – we'll cover it.

Peace, Love, Dogs,  
Cherie

P.S. Do you have a story idea? An event coming up? Let us know! Call (928) 445-4811 or email info@reddogpublishing.net.



K.D. Bear

# Jackson - 7 Centers Yoga Arts' Temple Dog

By Amber Polo

Some time ago I interviewed Sri Guruji Lionheart, the world famous cat destined to serve at Sedona's 7 Centers Yoga Art's Temple Cat. Now Jackson, the Temple Dog, has granted me an interview about his path from Shelter Pup to Temple Dog.



## Path to Temple Dog

In 2015 Jackson found Ruth Hartung, better known as Sraddhasagar, Director of 7 Centers Yoga Arts. A renter who was staying in Sraddha's garden apartment adopted a seven-month-old pup from the Humane Society of Sedona. The pup had been in the shelter since he'd been four months old. The renter (supposedly) was told the dog, already medium-sized, would grow into a small to medium sized-dog. As things that are meant to be happen, Sraddha began walking the dog named Jackson. The tenant left. Jackson stayed. And became 7 Centers' Temple Dog.

Seven Centers was established in 1998 on 89A near Airport Road and moved to its present location on Mountain Road in 2003. The building owned by the late Joe Beeler, the famous Western artist, was used as his art studio and foundry. Beeler agreed to rent to a yoga studio after learning more about yoga, appreciating his space would be used for their mutual goals of education and healing.

## The Life of a Temple Dog

Jackson waits at the front door ready to start his work day which begins with

driving to the center at 7 a.m. When there is a training or workshop in session, he lines up with the students for breakfast ever hopeful that Uta, the Center's Ayurvedic Chef has set aside a hard-boiled egg for him. More about his diet later.

Next, students are given karma yoga tasks which often include everyday chores to prepare the space for the day's activities. Karma yoga is the spiritual practice of selfless action performed for the benefit of others and community. One lucky student is chosen to take Jackson for a walk, a popular and coveted assignment. Or rather Jackson's karma yoga is to walk a student. It is his first chance on his beat to check out the Sunset neighborhood Park to be sure there are no javelina, jackrabbits, or squirrels to chase off.



Returning to the Center, it's time for yoga. Jackson has his own yoga mat, however he finds it's more fun to lie on students mats for Sun Salutations. He has learned from Lionheart that his place is in the center of any circle of students and has been known to snore during classes. He is calm and laid back as fits his role particularly when his tummy is rubbed. However in his



youthful days he was only allowed to stay in classes for an hour before he was sent home. His energy was a bit high, and students could be so easily distracted.

Later, he'll gets a longer afternoon walk. Jackson loves walking, though, like other high-minded dogs, he can be stubborn and opinionated and may refuse to go on a boring walk. He has a social schedule and is taken to the dog park weekly where he meets many special buddies and girlfriends. Jackson also loves excursions to PetSmart since he gets to go inside on a leash. He enjoys smelling all the toys and treats, doing tricks for the staff for a biscuit, and sometimes goes home with a stuffed animal.

## Duties of a Temple Dog

Temple Dogs are considered calm, patient, and aloof. Their temple duties include Sentry, Protector, and Ambassador.

As the Center's sentry Jackson takes his job seriously. He happily interrupts classes to announce the arrival a FedEx or UPS truck. He opens the door, runs out, and jumps into the truck to search for biscuits. Although Jackson loves wild animals, he takes exception to squirrels. During a recent

*(Continued page 21)*



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# Love on Wheels

By Jacqueline Vaughn



## Northern Arizona's Role in Blackhat Humane Society's Rescue Work

I'm not exactly sure where I first met Chris Cape, but it was likely along a stretch of highway in east Flagstaff. In 2017 Chris asked me to help bring animals from the Navajo reservation to fosters and new homes in northern Arizona, and I began transporting dogs and cats.

Chris was the most visible face of Blackhat Humane Society, a volunteer, foster-based organization that works to rescue animals, find them homes, and support spay and neuter on the Navajo Nation. Sprawling reservation lands cover about 27,000 square miles within Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah -- about the size of the state of West Virginia. No one knows how many stray or abandoned animals exist on the rez, with estimates up to 200,000. Tamara Martin, one of the group's founders said in an interview that "animal control on the reservation is about 50 years behind." Veterinary services on Navajo lands are almost non-existent, provided mostly by non-Navajo organizations such as Soul Dog Rescue, and Rez Dawg Rescue.

Begun in 2000 and currently based in Durango, Colorado, Blackhat Humane Society is named after a rock formation in the Tse Bonito area of McKinley County, New Mexico. Blackhat has no office and no employees. Volunteers use

their own vehicles to travel Navajo lands. Existing almost exclusively on donations, Blackhat also publishes a popular calendar, "Dogs of the Navajo." The group has long had ties to Flagstaff through a dedicated cadre of transporters bringing rez dogs through the city on their way to foster homes throughout Coconino and Yavapai counties.

The "2020 Dogs of the Navajo" calendar is available on the Blackhat website.

Chris served as president from her home in Gallup, New Mexico, operating an unofficial kennel on property purchased using funds inherited from her mother. She'd been a teacher in Sanders, Arizona and was active in the Southwest rodeo circuit. Chris was known for picking up strays on lonely reservation roads and bringing them to Flagstaff because potential adopters weren't willing to drive out to

the rez to meet a dog. Her work ended in April 2018 when she was killed in a head-on crash on Ute tribal land after transporting two Blackhat dogs to potential adopters. Her death at age 54 was a devastating loss, and supporters worried about the organization's future. Chris traveled constantly on desolate roadways to pick up strays, transferring them to transporters, finding homes for them in



Chris Cape



Blackhat Rez Dogs



2020 Dogs of the Navajo Calendar

Flagstaff and surrounding communities, and meeting with the Blackhat network.

Chris' legacy lives on through fosters like Marguerite Hendrie of Flagstaff who volunteered as a foster with High Country Puppy Rescue in 2013 and a few years later began fostering for Blackhat. Marguerite estimates that she has fostered as many as 25 animals for Blackhat. She says that one of the common characteristics of rez dogs is resilience—though they have been through so much, many are able to bounce back from injuries, disease, and lack of care.

Currently, Hendrie has one foster dog—Tabitha—a blend of rez genealogy that may or may not include a bit of Rottweiler. Tabby had a litter before she was spayed, and recently had surgery to repair a broken femur. Veterinarians discovered scars on her hip from road rash, most likely from being hit by or thrown from a car, not uncommon on the reservation.

Despite her injuries, Tabby is a happy-go-lucky 2-year-old who likes cats, other dogs, and kids. Hendrie spends her spare time with her 8-year-old daughter and one or two fosters. "Limiting the number of animals allows me to give them one-on-one attention," she says, "teaching skills, taking them to different places, and showing them love."

Working with Blackhat Humane Society means volunteers get an introduction to the Navajo Nation and small communities such as: Thoreau, Steamboat, Groundhog, and Mexican Water. Many of the

dogs that make their way to Flagstaff come from Pinon, Arizona, in the center of the Nation.

Current Blackhat president Cindy Yurth sends out a weekly email to fosters. Volunteers help transport the animals. Animals may go to Flagstaff, Cottonwood, or Prescott. Others go to fosters in Albuquerque, Phoenix, Durango, Sanders, or Chinle. Blackhat also finds homes online through PetFinder and holds adoption events. Hendrie says she often takes her foster dogs to local pet-friendly breweries, using "Adopt Me" vests to attract adopters. Blackhat's mission and reputation means dogs volunteers foster may end up adopted to families just about anywhere. One dog, Gracie, was flown to a new home in Florida, Flagstaff volunteer Moran Henn flew with another to Washington, others went to homes in Wyoming, Montana, and Pennsylvania.

While Chris Cape's death was a blow to the organization, Blackhat Humane Society—like a rez dog—is resilient. The group now has several rescue partners including, Nuzzles & Co. (Park City, Utah), Good Dog Rez-Q (St. John's, AZ), Pets Return Home (Clarkdale), Cooper's Chance (Phoenix), and Mut Matchers (Williams).

Blackhat is a well-known presence in Flagstaff, participating in events including Barks & Brews, the Cornucopia Fall Festival, NAZ Pet-A-Palooza, and entered a Hendrie-designed float in the 2019 Flagstaff Holiday Parade of Lights. Volunteers help pet owners on the reservation by delivering food, taking dogs to veterinary appointments, and raising spay/neuter awareness. Chris Cape would be proud.

Blackhat is always looking for fosters and transporters. They support fosters by paying for vet visits and supplies. Transporters are reimbursed for mileage.

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## Volunteer Drivers Transport Kindred Hearts' Animals

By Jacqueline Vaughn

Several northern Arizona women regularly volunteer with Kindred Hearts Transport Connection, (KHTC), a Florida-based non-profit helping dogs and cats (and occasionally a miniature pig or bird or rabbit) get to where they are supposed to be. Their mission is simple — to get animals in need from Point A to Point B using a relay system of volunteer drivers.

Kindred Hearts works like an Olympic torch relay, with drivers instead of runners. Drivers use their own vehicles and pay for their own fuel. The organization usually coordinates 10 to 20 transports (runs) every weekend throughout the US and occasionally into Canada, typically relocating animals from a shelter to a rescue group, or a rescue group to an adopter. KHTC also helps reunite owners with animals stolen or lost during automobile accidents, or assists military personnel relocating or being deployed.

Kindred Hearts is considered by many in animal welfare to be the preeminent volunteer animal transport organization. They thoroughly vet their drivers and have an extensive record. Their online volunteer application is



Susan & Flagstaff driver Mary Beth McGrath transferring



Susan Sabala-Foreman & transport passenger

detailed and asks about hours and days an applicant can drive and whether they're willing to foster an animal in transit.

Susan Sabala-Foreman, a KHTC driver, on her first transport, served as part of a team that delivered three rescued pups from Mexico to San Diego. Sabala-Foreman lives south of Flagstaff and most of her transport assignments are on weekends. A typical route will take her from Flagstaff to Holbrook or west on to Seligman. She occasionally meets a KHTC transporter in Sedona for animals going south to Phoenix.

Typically, a shelter or rescue submits a request with information about the animal: where it's from and needs to go, health information, and special information. Sometimes young puppies will be transported "No Paws on the Ground," not yet have been vaccinated and developed immunity. Those puppies are kept in a crate and receive limited handling during the transfer. A Transport Coordinator establishes the route and schedule,



KHTC transporter

and the legs needed. Legs average 60 miles one way, although drivers in the West often drive as many as 120 miles one way. KHTC contacts potential drivers in their database (by text or email) to see if they are available for a section. It may take weeks to set up the details of a run.

Although it's rare that a transport runs into problems, drivers know that, well, stuff happens. KHTC coordinators carefully monitor weather and traffic. The organization emphasizes safety for both drivers and passengers. Sabala-Foreman says, "KHTC supports safety over keeping to the schedule." She carries a transport kit that includes everything from paper towels to extra leashes. "It's like bringing supplies to care for a human baby."

KHTC requires animals have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) health certificate from an accredited veterinarian that satisfies state, interstate, or tribal regulations, although not usually included in a local or intra-state transport through Arizona.

What advice does Sabala-Foreman give to those considering becoming a transporter for a group like Kindred Hearts? "You must truly love animals — you need that big heart. You must be committed. Be honest with your ability to help."

Other KHTC transporters point out that your commitment is not only to the animal, but to other drivers depending on you. She admits, "I was a pretty hot mess on my first solo transport, but after that, nothing could stop me! "Knowing that you helped little souls who couldn't help themselves or their circumstances, is the most gratifying and happy experience."

For information on becoming a Kindred Hearts transport driver: [www.kindredheartstransportconnection.org](http://www.kindredheartstransportconnection.org)

## Southwest Greyhound X-Change Transports Greyhounds to Arizona

Forty formerly racing greyhounds left Kansas for homes in Arizona and New Mexico. The truck arrived on Dec. 7 in Camp Verde, then went on to deliver dogs to Phoenix and Tucson. Transport was organized by a coalition of greyhound organizations and paid for by Greyhound Pets of America. Dogs were transported from dog-racing tracks and farms to a location in Kansas, then loaded onto the transport truck for travel to the Southwest.



Dog racing will end in Florida on January 1, 2021. Estimates of the number of dogs that will need homes varies. (More about the Florida track closings in the May-June issue.) Greyhounds of the Verde Valley, Racing Home (a prison program that trains the dogs for adoption), and Arizona Adopt A Greyhound (AAGI) all received dogs.

Local groups are responsible for veterinary costs including spay/neuter, microchipping, fostering, and placing dogs in permanent pet homes. More shipments are planned. If you're interested in adopting, fostering, or donating you can find your local group by visiting: [www.ngagreyhounds.com/](http://www.ngagreyhounds.com/) Adopt



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# Why Visitors Flock to Yuma & Why You Should, Too

By Stacey Wittig

Make like a snowbird and head to Yuma for pet-friendly fun in the sun. We sniffed out the best places to travel with your pets in the sunny southern Arizona city. People from Canada and the snowy northern states (commonly called snowbirds) keep returning to Yuma year after year to escape the winter clime, and here are the reasons why.



*Dogs of Yuma.  
Photo by Linda Kissam.*

One reason is that Yuma, on the Colorado River, is large enough to provide what every pet owner needs, and small enough to retain its friendly Western charm. Services abound from the large PetSmart to local places like Paws and Claws Pet Grooming and Resort. Additionally, we discovered many restaurants with Fido-friendly patios. Because when the weather is so lovely, where do you want to sit? Indoors or out?

Of course, the #1 reason that Yuma is so attractive is the sunny weather from November to March. During our recent trip, we learned that because of that unique climate, Yuma grows 93% of the leafy produce that is distributed throughout the US and Canada during the

winter months. That's why it's known as the Winter Lettuce Capital of the World.

Sample fresh lettuce salads – or hamburgers and steaks – at The Crossing Grill & Bar, where you and your four-legged traveling companion can hang out at outdoor tables. The restaurant gets its name because Yuma is the spot where over the centuries, people found a 'crossing' over the mighty Colorado River.

Native peoples, 16th-century Spanish explorers, and gold-frenzied California Forty-Niners (1849) found a place to cross the Colorado River on their way westward. Finally, in 1914 a road bridge was opened to traffic, linking thoroughfares into one of the first transcontinental highways in the country. That's why the truss bridge is called the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge. View the historic bridge from Gateway Park, the riverfront park, which is a perfect place for letting your furry



*Yuma Kids in River with Dog.  
Photo courtesy Visit Yuma.*



*Outdoor dining in downtown Yuma*

If your sweet pup prefers off-leash play, then the Bark Park is the place for y'all. Three acres of fenced space with water, benches, clean-up stations, and agility equipment is found at 1705 E Palo Verde Street. Your furry companions must be licensed and current on vaccinations. As with all off-leash parks, check guidelines for details: [www.yumaaz.gov/parks-and-recreation/bark-park.html](http://www.yumaaz.gov/parks-and-recreation/bark-park.html)

After romping in the park, you'll be ready for Prison Hill Brewing Company, Yuma's first craft brewery. You'll have your choice of two patio areas. We recommend



*Molly taking her humans for a walk at Senator Wash*

the back patio for its grassy area and waste bags. Cute menu items like "The Big House" salad, "The Jail Bird," and "Sprung Rolls" will keep you coming back. No surprise that the joint is near Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park, one of Yuma's most visited attractions. (Pets aren't allowed at the state park.)

We also enjoyed River City Grill, where servers bring water bowls to outdoor tables for four-legged guests.

A not-to-miss experience is the Sunset on the Ranch Dinners, where you dine outdoors in the fields for an authentic farm-to-table meal prepared by a gourmet chef. The exclusive dinners are scheduled for February 13 and March 5. Tickets available at [visityuma.com](http://visityuma.com)

The romantic farm dinners don't permit pet guests, but if you book the Historic Coronado Motor Hotel, your four-legged buddy can stay in your room unattended.



*Freddie, the owner of Historic Coronado Motor Hotel's dog at the West Wetlands Park. Photo by Lisa D. Smith.*

The hotel welcomes cats and dogs up to 80 pounds for an additional fee of only \$10 per pet, per stay. Call 877-411-3436 to confirm the availability of pet-friendly rooms or visit: [besthotelyuma.com](http://besthotelyuma.com)

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# VVHS Volunteers Rescue Kittens From Ringworm

By Amber Polo



Volunteers are priceless! To twenty-four kittens, five Verde Valley Humane Society (VVHS) volunteers were lifesavers.

When the VVHS was faced with an outbreak of ringworm in their shelter kittens, volunteers Penny Mullen, Cindy Spicer, Jackie Hayes, Anne Albright, and Memory Russell stepped up and took over the care of kittens with ringworm and those exposed.

Feline ringworm (feline dermatophytosis) is not worms. It's a fungal infection that affects cats, dogs, rodents, rabbits, birds, and other species. Humans are also at risk.

Animals, like people, get infected through touching an infected animal's skin or hair, or by touching things that are infected with the fungus, like blankets and towels. It appears as circular areas of hair loss, scaly and crusty skin, and inflammation.

Parasites create spores capable of developing into new microorganisms. Ringworm has a very long incubation period – up to 21 days. Kittens may

seem fine, be adopted, and then show signs of ringworm 2-3 weeks later. There is no vaccine, and it is costly for shelters due to the amount of staff time needed to treat the condition.

The affected cats were isolated from other shelter animals, staff, and volunteers. The special volunteer team wore protective gear while handling and bathing the kittens and followed protocols.

## Volunteers Bathed Up To 15 Cats in One Day

From mid-October until early December, volunteers bathed cats, up to 15 a day. Not all started treatment at the same time, and the number bathed daily varied.



1. Put on protective clothing
2. Take cat into small warm bathing room
3. Bathe and soak cat in medicated shampoo
4. Wait ten minutes, keep wet cat warm
5. Rinse cat
6. Dry cat

Besides baths, each cat required daily doses of oral antifungal medication. Each needed to be weighed daily and progress charted once a day for 3 months.

While the cats were in an isolation area, the volunteers cleaned and sanitized the cat room with fungus-killing disinfectants. All the cat trees and toys that could not be completely sanitized were discarded. The volunteers purchased and installed new trees for the room.



Each cat was checked for spores with a Wood's lamp ultraviolet light which revealed remaining fungus-coated hair as glowing yellow-green. Spore-free cats were released into the pristine cat room. There they waited for spaying, neutering, and new homes.

Tacy Pastor, VVHS Executive Director, says "There is no way we could have done this without these volunteers. They are the reason these felines got the correct and timely treatment and recovered."

The passionate volunteers became familiar with each kitten and hoped that each one would find the best home. Volunteer Cindy Spicer adopted two of the kittens who had been the weakest.

Lucky adopters got very special well-socialized cats used to baths and nail trimming. And the five volunteers became special friends, dedicated to helping the Verde Valley Humane Society

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**WHISKEY:** A young Australian Shepherd cross. She is a sweetheart with the most stunning blue eyes! She is smart, affectionate, and loves people. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**FLORENCE:** A 7-year-old chocolate lab, Florence came in as a stray. She is so sweet and loving. Very friendly with people and other dogs, she would love a home. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**TONY:** A Chihuahua cross, poor Tony was left by a dumpster. He's now ready for his own home. He's affectionate, and loves people and other dogs. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**THOR:** A yellow lab/pit bull cross, Thor is 4 years old and loves everybody. He is active, smart, and will be a wonderful family companion. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



**HARMONY:** A 2-year-old Fox terrier mix, she is super playful with lots of energy. She is smart, affectionate, loyal, and loves long walks and hikes. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**MOXIE:** A 5-year-old Chihuahua, she is a sweet, cuddly little lady who would love her own person. And how can you look at those ears and not smile! Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



**PANDA:** A 6-year-old Malamute cross, poor Panda was abandoned at a dog park. She is gentle, loves attention, and is very affectionate. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



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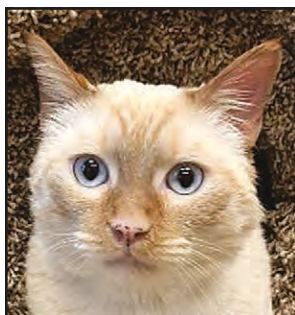
**CODA:** An older, healthy kitty who was an owner surrender, having lived with his person for 14 years. He is likely the saddest kitty we've ever met. He would love a home and some love and a warm lap. Coda's adoption fee has been sponsored by HCH, and he comes with food and some of his hidey spots for comfort. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



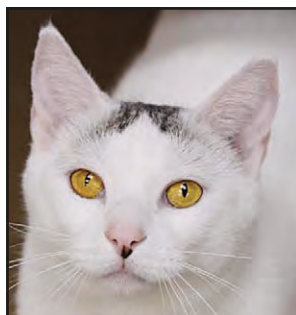
**GINGER:** A sweet loving guy that loves everybody! A red-and-white male, 2 years old, who loves attention and pets. Handsome with a winning personality, he's an amazing cat! Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



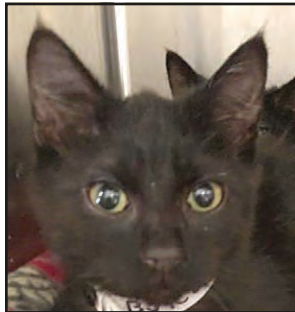
**CASSIDY:** A sweet 2-year-old lady with amazing gold eyes. She is affectionate, playful, and loves toys. Has lived with a dog previously and gets along with most cats. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**SIMON:** A 2-year-old male, he is a very handsome flame point Siamese mix with amazing blue eyes. Very affectionate, loves people, and wants a lap of his own. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**GRIMM:** A handsome, loving boy with a playful side. He's 4 years old, mostly white with the most amazing golden eyes. Loves people, lots of attention, and other cats. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**BYRD:** A most handsome little boy about 2 months old. He is going to grow up to be a magnificent house panther with green-gold eyes. Funny, active, affectionate. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



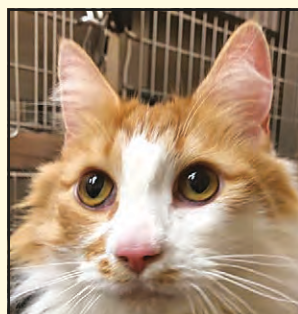
**PRESTON:** An unusual cat who is mostly white with a cream-colored mask and spots. He is 1 year old and a most handsome long-haired fellow. Very sweet and affectionate. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



**GRAYSON:** A beautiful 2-year-old gray tabby who is a great guy with a great personality. He loves people and gets along well with other cats. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**SNICKERS:** A 2-year-old male tuxedo cat with the most magnificent white whiskers! He is calm, affectionate, and would make a wonderful companion as he loves being with people. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



**DAISY AND MAX:** Daisy is a sweet, gorgeous gal who would love a home with her brother Max. Daisy is a lovely calico lady, and her brother Max is a red-and-white long-haired fellow who is most handsome. They are very close as sibling and would hate to be separated. Together they will fill your house with love. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387

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# Rattlesnakes & Dogs – A Dangerous Combination

By Amber Polo

Rattlesnake bites are often debilitating or fatal, resulting in suffering to dogs and expensive treatments for owners. Arizona is home to thirteen varieties of rattlesnakes and the rarely encountered Western Coral Snake. All are dangerous to dogs.

Snakes strike and inject venom through hollow fangs like hypodermic needles. 80% of bites are to a dog's head because dogs are curious. Bites happen quickly. Pain comes later. So bitten dogs don't learn to avoid snakes.

When asked about rattlesnake vaccines, Reed Scudder DVM of The Village Vet in Sedona says, "There is no clinical proof that the snake vaccine works, even though many veterinarians claim that vaccinated dogs exhibit milder symptoms when bitten. Dogs still need medical attention. Some symptoms of

snake bite are redness at the site, puncture wounds, swelling, bruising, tissue necrosis, pain, etc."

According to Jim Walkington (Viper Voidance of New River), who's been training dogs to avoid snakes for over seventeen years, "Only rattlesnakes smell like rattlesnakes."

He believes you can't use a dead snake, a snake of another genus, or rattles to teach a dog that rattlesnakes are serious trouble.

"The last thing you want to do is teach a dog that a snake is safe."

Most dogs are not naturally afraid of rattlesnakes. All of a dog's senses are important in keeping them safe, but smell is primary.

Many times, a snake does not rattle before striking. Snakes are usually under rocks or beneath cactus. If the snake is coiled, the snake might not move, it might not rattle, but it always gives off a smell.

After avoidance training



with a shock collar, a dog associates the smell, sound, and sight of a

snake with a very unpleasant experience. From then on, the dog will run from rattlers and often get their owners to safety.

Walkington, author of "What the Lord Said About Labs: And Other Dog Stories from Rattlesnake University," estimates he's snake-proofed more than 4,000 dogs and one cat. His Viper Voidance snakes were used in the movie "Sedona: the Movie."

Many owners and trainers believe e-collars (electronic collars or shock collars), used professionally, are the only safe and humane method of creating a lasting negative association between the smell of snake and danger.



Dog approaching boxed snakes

Dog trainer Victoria Rawson (Unleashed Dog Training [www.unleasheddogtraining.com](http://www.unleasheddogtraining.com)) says, "When I moved to Arizona I wanted a qualified snake avoidance trainer that was also a knowledgeable dog handler, one able to read each of my dogs and know the level the e-collar must be set for each dog to understand the danger and avoid the venomous snake."

"Snake avoidance training keeps us safe. Every time I go out with my snake avoidance trained dogs I pay close attention to their behavior."

Most snake bites occur close to home, often in the owner's yard. Arizona owners of at-risk dogs need to investigate snake avoidance training and talk to their veterinarians about vaccination.

*Jim Walkington's Viper Voidance of New River*

*Spring trainings in northern Arizona: Cottonwood (Kid's Park) March 20-21 & April 10-11 and Kingman (AZ Game and Fish parking lot) March 7 & April 18.*

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# Hiking with Annie: The Wet and the Dry

By Melissa Bowersock

Hiking with your dog in Arizona can be pure pleasure... and challenging. It's no secret that Arizona presents a unique set of circumstances to those who enjoy exploring with their dogs. In the Verde Valley, we have every kind of wilderness to explore, from mountain trails like Doe Mountain to more level trails like the Bell Trail to longer, more arduous trails like Sycamore Canyon.

I live in Camp Verde, about 7 miles east of I-17 off Highway 260, and while the trails near me are not quite as well known as the above, there are still plenty to choose from. When choosing a hike, the most important aspect to take into consideration—first, last, and always—is the weather.

A leisurely dry hike (most of the time) is Wickiup Creek, a large wash that cuts across Highway 260 east of Camp Verde. It's an easy hike on level ground, but on either side of the wash are scrub mesquite and desert willow, and thick brush of catclaw and wild grasses. Very often hidden among those grasses are hedgehog and prickly pear cactus.



As much as my Airedale, Annie, would love to roam freely, there are just too many hazards to being off-leash. If Annie jumped a jackrabbit, she'd be off like a shot, and cactus be damned.

I always pack water for Annie, but in the summer when it's hot, we also have to take "shade breaks." Annie loves to burrow into cool, shady sand, digging and rolling, so those breaks add to the hike time.

I also use a cooling vest on her. She doesn't like it—runs and hides when she hears me wringing the water from it—but I do believe it keeps her cooler in the heat.

There are many cooling vests available, and most act like a portable evaporative cooler. I soak Annie's in water, let it suck up as much water as possible, then wring it out and put it on her. When we return from our walks and I take

it off of her, her back is still nice and cool.

Hiking Wickiup Creek wash is better in cooler weather, but then I have to be mindful of rain. Since the wash starts up in higher terrain, monsoons there often trigger flash floods. Even days after a heavy rain, hiking is difficult due to the many pockets of sticky clay.

My first experience with those pockets led to many hours of washing the clay out of Annie's soft coat and feet. She was definitely not a fan.

Another fun but dry place is Teepee Rocks. This is just off Fossil Creek Road, not far from Highway 260. Teepee Rocks were formed by fumaroles venting volcanic gases thousands of years ago. Now, they are a crazy and fascinating landscape, looking a little like a cross between Bedrock City and Luke Skywalker's home planet. This is another place that gets very hot during the summer, and actually should be avoided until cooler weather, as the rocky surfaces really radiate heat.

For the best wet adventure, we go to West Clear Creek. Most of the time, the creek



is a gentle stream with a few burbling waterfalls created by dams of rocks and lodged deadwood.

Those dams back up into peaceful pools where Annie can wade or swim, and of course get a long drink of clear, cool water. But, as with all watercourses in Arizona, the creek can become a raging river when we get unrelenting rain, and we've seen it grow from ten or twelve feet across to fully a quarter-mile wide at high flood.

Whether you're hiking wet or dry, yes, watch the ground, but always keep an eye on the sky!



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# Run & Chug: Flagstaff Fun

By Kristy Meyers

We adopted our sweet Penny girl during the 2015 holiday season. It didn't take long to realize that her thirst for adventure could barely be quenched. Conveniently, around this time we became acquainted with Dark Sky Brewing Company, one of Flagstaff's incredible establishments.

Dark Sky was new to the area and held unique events like "Pints n' Poses Yoga" and "Tap Takeovers." They planned the first "Run & Chug" epic run through the city between a handful of local breweries, followed by a potluck and social hour. It was a fun tour with dogs welcomed. I knew that we had to do it.

We met at Dark Sky, prepared for a cloudy afternoon outfitted with running gear, tutus, and smiles. Penny wore her running harness and had the biggest smile of all. From there, we took off at a brisk pace to Mother Road Brewing Company, Historic Barrel & Bottle House, Wanderlust Brewing, and others.

At each stop, people would drink or share a pint of local brew. My husband and I tried to rest at our stops because we knew when we hit the road Penny would be kicking up her paws and pushing for the lead at breakneck speed. She always kept us on our toes.

Over the course we clocked between six and seven miles. We



Kristy Meyers,  
Penny, and Friends

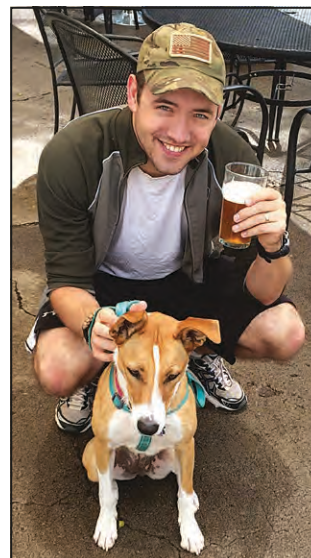
saw neighborhoods in Flagstaff that we'd never before frequented. We met new friends with shared interests in running, active adventures, and dogs. Most of all, we had an incredible time – and Penny had a great time, too!



One of the great things about Flagstaff – a city with a median age of 25 and new residents each fall – there are many opportunities to try something new on your own and with your dog.

In one of the most dog-friendly cities I've known, nearly every brewery welcomes furry friends inside their doors or on their patios – and some even have a menu for dogs!

We truly enjoy taking Penny to Flagstaff to enjoy the wild outdoors and the dog-friendly



*Looking ahead: Flagstaff's Annual Barks and Brews returns on September 26, 2020. Join craft beer and dog lovers for a pub crawl. 100% of proceeds will be donated to humane and rescue organizations in Northern Arizona.*

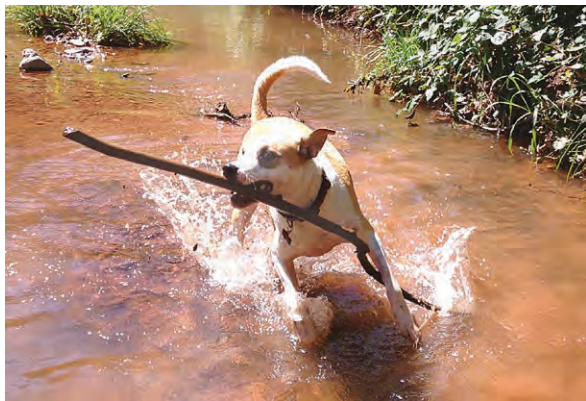
parts of the city. It never seems to disappoint.

Although it has been some time since Dark Sky has organized a Run & Chug event, their brewery is still a fun open space we love to visit. We play card games, visit with old friends, and try unique new ales like IPAs aged in wine barrels as a collaboration with local winemakers. For what it's worth, Penny enjoys their beer too—when we give her a chance to lick it off our fingers!

Looking for a fun place that'll love both you and your dog? Until their next Run & Chug check out the weekly meet up of the DSB Run Club every Monday at 5:30pm. It promises fun, active moments, and classic Flagstaff sites! Pups are welcome on the weekly run and on the patio for a beer afterwards. While you're there, have one for me and for Penny!

Read about Dark Sky Brewing's current beers and upcoming events: <https://www.darkskybrewing.com/>

(Continued from page 6)



squirrel infestation Jackson vigorously protected all cars in the parking lot from those damaging creatures who jumped onto hoods. Jackson takes his job as diplomatic greeter seriously and is a friendly mentor to other dogs as long as they understand their place in the hierarchy.

### Jackson and Other Creatures

Jackson respects all sentient life (except squirrels). He adoringly chases Temple Cat Lionheart, and competes with his sister Xena, Junior Temple Cat, for attention. Sweetums, a black domestic bunny, is a special friend and puts up with his adoring kisses. Jackson must have some terrier in his

genes, for he loves to dig. He listens for gophers and digs to find them. Following the practice of ahimsa (do no harm), he considers it a game of catch and release.

He's a great swimmer and loves to swim in the Creek, especially during the summer heat. The Creek is an excellent place to observe Sedona's wildlife. There, Jackson joyfully chases jack rabbits, coyotes, javelina, and deer, though he seems disappointed that few enjoy the game as much as he does. He has been skunked but didn't find the odor on him objectionable.

I've heard that Temple Dogs and guardians of Buddhist monasteries are often Tibetan Mastiffs, the most ancient breed of dogs, whose genetic heritage is most closely linked to grey wolves. Many temple dogs are huge, some weigh up to 220 pounds. Jackson once weighed 96 pounds which though impressive, was the result of too many UPS cookies and special treats from his large number of friends. He, after treatment for environmental allergies with a raw diet, is now looking good at

a healthy 72 pounds and celebrated his sixth birthday on January 28,

Asked about Jackson, Sraddha says, "Often students come to 7 Centers from around the globe leaving behind family, friends, and pets as they embark on a personal journey of growth through the yoga teacher trainings. Everyday Jackson enthusiastically greets every one, ready for the day, and to play, to walk, to eat, to do yoga nidra. These simple joys bring one into the present moment. This is Jackson's greatest gift as a temple dog."

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Photo courtesy Sedona Hummingbird Gallery

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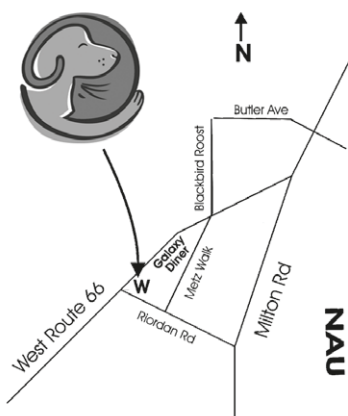
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# The Call of the Wild – The Movie & More

By Amber Polo



Jack London published *The Call of the Wild* in 1903 as short pulp fiction, first serialized in the Saturday Evening Post. A thrilling story of survival and wilderness adventure set during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, London's writing is surprisingly

modern for an almost 120-year-old work. His protagonist is the dog Buck (not the human characters) and fits the turn of the century style of anthropomorphizing animals who think and feel with human emotions.

London describes Buck as a St. Bernard-Scotch Shepherd mix with a long muzzle and wolfish head. Desmond Morris' book *Dogs; The Ultimate Dictionary of over 1,000 Dog Breeds* refers to a lot of Scotch collies. My guess is that Buck's mother was one of the heavy-bodied drover's dogs, bred to take sheep and cattle to market and fight off wolves in Scotland and England, a sturdy, Lassie-sized herding dog.

The latest movie version of *The Call of the Wild*, starring Harrison Ford in the role of John Thornton, will be released February 21, 2020. Ford seems to

be a perfect match for Thornton, but the role of Buck has created immediate controversy.

The movie is a live action/animated hybrid. The director's wife adopted the dog Buckley from a Kansas animal shelter. A digital scan of Buckley was made into a full CGI model to replace the original Burmese Mountain Dog. Critics commented that no dogs were harmed in the making of the movie because no dogs acted in the movie.

*Cats* is another recent movie that also has critics complaining about computer-created effects in films. Digital fur on stars and computer-generated ears and tails offended some. But *Cats* never proposed to be about real live cats. Like *The Call of the Wild*, *Cats* is a movie for real and virtual animal lovers.



For fun, watch the classic 1935 movie starring Clark Gable and Loretta Young. The film bears little resemblance to London's book. With only a small part for a dog, moviemakers made a 1930s romantic comedy, saving only London's title and adding fake snow.



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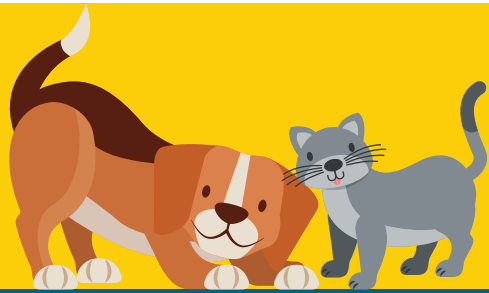


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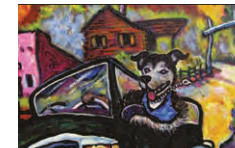
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# Celebration of Life: She and I

By Cherie L. Dreves

One Sunday morning in mid-March of 1993 "The au pair" arrived. As I looked out our front window, in the distance I saw my five-year-old carrying something white. As she drew closer, I could see the jostling of a little white body with legs and ears. She was beautiful and she had come to us. Two young girls had given K. D. Bear to my daughter. "Just tell your mommy you found her." The truth came out the next morning on the way to school. My daughter was worried that I wouldn't let her stay but at that point I wouldn't have dreamt of ever letting her go. I was in love.

Bear became my au pair. She inserted herself into every facet of my life. She was my home improvements foreman, my paperwork partner, my sous chef and my ever present "sugar bear." Together we raised my daughter while Bear was raising me. Bear was always right there.

My position took me away from home, a lot. Back home, Bear waited patiently at the top of the stairs for my return. I was told she rarely moved from that post without intense coaxing. I really missed being at home with my girls. Each night I would call, talk to my mom, who was "playing my wife", then my daughter, who would hold the phone so I could talk to Bear. Many times she talked back to me. While I was away, she grew into this dignified, stately beauty, the most lady-like dog I had ever known.

We relocated to Phoenix in Sept 1995. Because we were from San Antonio, there were a few things that we needed to overcome; the intense heat of the sidewalks, lack of grass in our yard and the lack of regular rainfall. Our solution was to make it rain ourselves. I would hold the garden hose straight up so that it would rain on Bear and me. It seemed to help ease our homesickness and it was fun.

Between Christmas and Valentine's Day there isn't much in the way of children's celebrations. Our solution was to make up our own. Bear turned three on February 1, 1996, so to celebrate we bought party hats and a cake, which Bear loved and had a special dinner, all in Bear's honor. We continue this tradition with all of our dogs.

Though many things changed from 1993 to 1997, when we relocated to the Prescott area, one thing that remained the same was the love and loyalty Bear showered upon me. Children grow, houses change, jobs change, but the centering constant in my life was Bear.

K. D. Bear had her own chaise lounge in front of the window, she loved chicken, she didn't like to go for walks and she got carsick. She was known for her kind manner mixed with a little stubborn streak.



In 2005, a big year for us, Bear turned 12 in February, my daughter graduated high school in June and relocated to Ohio and I was off to New York at the end August. Bear started feeling bad in mid- August. We went to the vet. She seemed fine after so I went ahead with my plans. The vet called me while I was in NYC to see how Bear was doing. All the reports I got from home indicated Bear was fine.

I flew home on Labor Day, and Bear was fine till Wednesday evening when she lost her ability to stand. I was in denial. She would be fine, she's just weak. I could not bring myself to call the vet. I finally found the courage Thursday afternoon and asked them to come Friday evening.

Bear and I spent every moment possible together from Wednesday evening till Friday evening. September is usually warm and breezy, our favorite time to be out on the porch, which we had done for so many years. I could see the end coming and I wasn't the least bit ready. We sat quietly in the living room, listening to the breeze in the mulberry tree out front. By the time the vet arrived, I was bracing Bear's wither with my thigh so that she could

1.) Lady Bear. 2.) Cherie with Bear. 3.) Cherie, Bear and Lauren. 4.) Polar Bear.

hold her head high, as her dignified manner required. We all just sat quietly for a few minutes, and she was gone. Freed from her earthly ailments she was headed to that "one tree hill" where I know I will see her again.

After a sleepless night and a day of all out mourning, at 6 P.M., I went out to the back porch, turned on the stereo and for the next 2 hours listened to the cast of *A Prairie Home Companion* deliver a eulogy for my Bear. The 9/10/2005 show is in the archives. There is a very transitional story about the ever-changing roles of our lives.

I am not ashamed to say, I cried away the better part of 6 months. I believe that period was the loneliest part of my life. K.D. Bear was a rescue. She came homeless from the park. Through her life she opened the door for several other beloved rescued dogs to join our family. We have loved each and every one, but K.D. Bear was different than the rest. I don't feel my life would have been the same has I not shared it with this special dog.



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by C.L. Dreves

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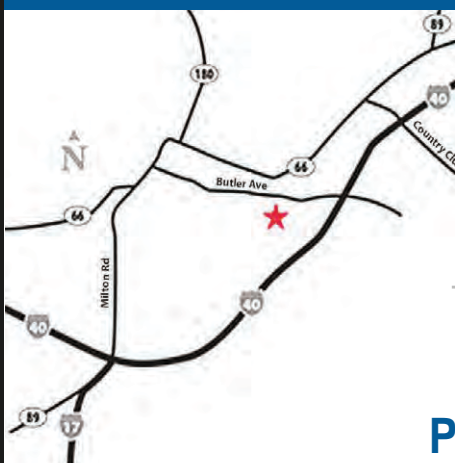
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