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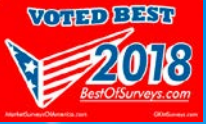
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**Just hanging out with my
ghoul friends**

Happy Halloween!

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Buddy, Our Cover Dog



Name: My name is Buddy.

Age: My 3rd birthday was September 15th.

Hometown: I live in Camp Verde, Arizona.

Favorite Brand of Kibble: Is Acana Red Meat Formula. I like it mixed with hamburger (raw or cooked), rice, sugar snap peas, carrots and a bit of cottage cheese. :-)

Favorite Toy: Is anything that squeaks!

Favorite Outdoor Activity: I love hiking, exploring and chasing anything that runs. Especially lizards, rabbits, squirrels, burros, deer, road-runners....

Favorite indoor activity: Is playing on the floor with Mom and Dad and my toys.

Favorite Nap Spot: On Mom and Dad's big bed.

Describe Your Perfect Canine Pal: Someone who is the same size and temperament as me and loves to run and chase. My BFF is Mason.

Describe Your Perfect Day: Out with Mom and Dad for a hike while chasing rabbits. Followed by a nice meal and a nap!



Tucker's Take

I was there again. My favorite place. Last time I was there, Keira started kicking me in my sleep, so I was only there for a few minutes. I was so disgusted at being interrupted that I jumped down from the bed and assumed my secondary post at the entrance to the bedroom. I tried to drift off and return, but I've never been able to get there by sheer will.

When I do get to go, I always catch the scent first. The smell of sweet grass and the fragrance of a cool summer day fills the room and then, poof! I find myself standing on a small rise above the swaying tall grasses, looking over a seemingly endless prairie dotted with small gardens of flowers. It always starts at the same place, and I usually start by just "drinking" in all the various scents. So different from the high-country desert. When my senses are filled, I paddle down to the worn path that winds through the grass, and I enjoy the absence of "senior creaks" that I endure sometimes when I'm awake.

Last night was no different at the beginning, and I decided to go to my new favorite spot that I discovered the last time I was here. Just past the first small garden area, there was pack-rat sitting in the path ahead of me. My first thought was, "good thing Dad's not here." The next thing that occurred to me was I had no inclination to chase. How odd that as the sheriff of my pack, defender of the backyard and garden, my only reaction was to stop, sit, and observe.

We were facing each other, and he stood up to sniff the air in my direction, then he disappeared into the grass. I saw that he had a collar on, and my tail wagged a couple times. At home, we don't wear collars because we tend to play with great exuberance, and Mom doesn't want us to get caught on anything or each other. So, collars to us actually mean adventure and freedom. When Dad reaches for the basket with all our gear, we can't contain our excitement.

The pack-rat reappeared closer to me and seemed to be slightly impatient. I realized he wanted me to follow him through the grass. So I did. I wasn't ready for what I saw. Bear in mind that the grasses are twice as high as I am, and in my journeys so far, I haven't been inclined to deviate from the worn path. I made a mental note to explore further if I get to come here again.

I trotted behind the small critter wedging a wider new path with my body, and the grass gave way to a small open area at the foot of a garden. The pack-rat stopped there, turned to me and proudly stood before what must be the most immaculate, ornate, and complex pack-rat home I will probably ever see. It was constructed of woven grasses and flowers. It was

nothing like the pack-rat nests Dad has found in the woodpile. It had unusual "accents" on all its corners. Yes, corners.

One accent was familiar to me. Dad has an arm collar he wears that has a round face on it that he looks at. Hazel and I call it the "anxious collar." We've noticed that if we see Dad looking at it again and again, he starts getting a little antsy, and it seems the more he looks at it, the more he gets unsettled. Here I am in a dream wrapped in a riddle looking at the exact same wrist collar, only this one has no numbers.

As a final show of his artfulness in building, the pack-rat ran through all his entrances and exits, peeked out the windows at me, then dashed back out, racing through my legs and disappeared through the grass the way I'd come in. I looked one more time at his "masterpiece" and realized that all the woven grasses and flowers were alive and still rooted in the ground.

Retracing my steps to the path, I continued on towards my favorite place. The brook. A cool breeze came down into the path and stirred my fur. It was refreshing, and I was hoping I could get to the brook before Keira woke me up.

I came to a wider path I hadn't seen before. I wondered if I should follow it, but somehow I knew I wasn't supposed to. I think it was made for two-leggeds, and when I started to cross it I saw in the distance a two-legged man walking away from me. I don't know if he saw me or not, so I just continued heading towards the brook.

The water was moving at quite a clip this time, the waves and eddies singing against the exposed rocks. I sat on the thin shoreline and waited to see if he would show up. Not the two-legged I saw. No, the large fish I'd seen once before. I didn't have to wait long. He slowly came up from my right, and just like last time he stopped in front of me, effortlessly holding his position against the current where I could watch him. I love this part; a calmness I can't seem to find anywhere, except here, watching the grace and symmetry of this strange being I've never seen in my waking life.

I sat and watched him in his holding pattern for what seem like an hour, when I heard steps behind me.

The fish leapt and broke the surface at the same time and shot upstream out of sight. I turned my head to see the man that had been walking on the wide path now standing behind me. He had some kind of badge on his shirt. I wondered if he was a sheriff, like me, and somehow he knew what I was thinking. (I wish it was that easy with Dad.)

He bent down towards me. "Not quite a sheriff. I'm the gardener. Although I do have to keep in-



truders away from here from time to time." It was exciting to meet a two-legged that had some of the skills I have in dealing with the intruders.

He leaned closer, "Now Tucker--" He knew my name! "--can you give a your Dad a message for me?"

I guess he didn't know how hard it is to get things across to Dad without active vocal cords, but for some unexplained reason I so wanted to do what this man asked.

"Don't be concerned how Tucker, just carry it to him." How did he know what I was thinking? "Tell him to stop being so anxious, and to be more alert to help those around him. Tell him to remember we need each other."

The man reached out to stroke my head, but suddenly I woke up to see Dad reaching to pet me. He was sitting at the bench at the foot of the bed.

"Wanna go for a ride, Tuck?" Dad, always with the rhetorical questions... "Keira and Hazel are outside. I'll go get them."

I immediately threw a front paw across his arm.

"What, Tuck...you want to go without them?"

I pushed harder against his arm, twice.

"OK, we'll have to sneak out quietly buddy."

As we walked down the hall, I could hear Hazel and Keira outside barking to see if their "pen-pal" that lives up the hill would answer. I knew we'd make it to the car without a scene. A sense of purpose filled me. As Dad hitched me up to the seat restraint, I felt this declaration rise up inside me.

"I Am Tucker Oso, Sheriff of My Pack, Raiser and Caregiver of Foster Dogs, Protector and Watchman Over My Two-Leggeds as They Sleep, and I Have Been Given a Message..."



Bear Gets Her Wings

by C.L. Dreves

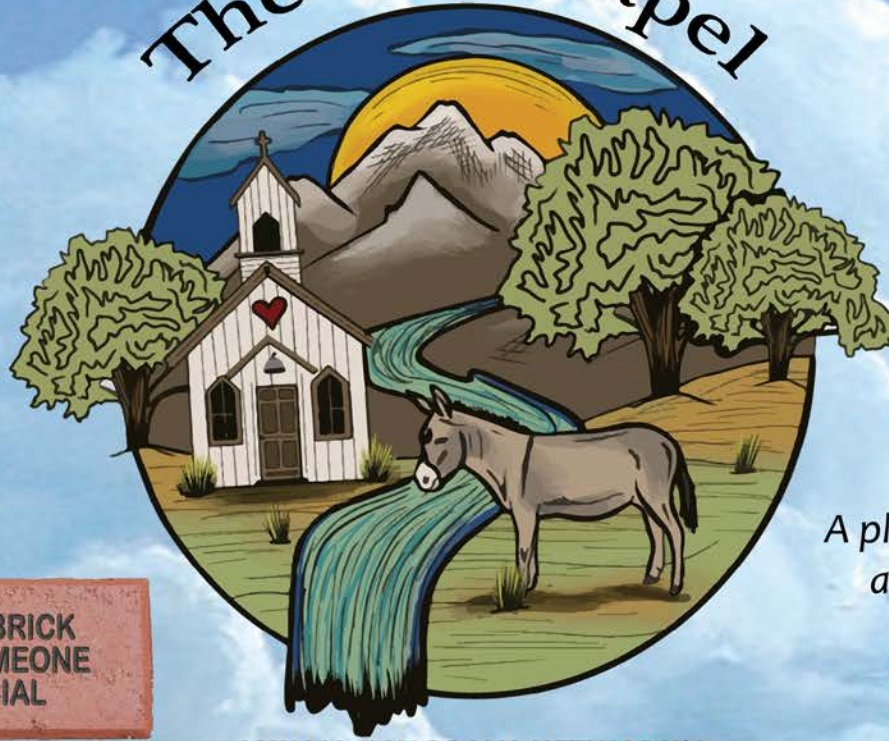
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Rescue Tales



Special Candidates for Adoption

We'd like to introduce you to four very special candidates who are waiting for their forever homes.

Emmett

Emmett is four years old and, at one year, has been the longest resident at High Country Humane. Our next longest, Betty (who's featured below), has been here only two months. It's never okay to have a dog this long in a shelter, or in multiple shelters.



Emmett was found as a stray during the Elden fires last summer. He was transferred to another shelter and has been bounced around a lot over this last year. He's back with us now and lives in a single room that's bright and airy, but it's not a home.

This bachelor guy would be happiest with a single family with no pets or kids. He's house trained and walks great on the leash. He's also shy of strangers at first but warms up quickly. Emmett's adoption fee has been sponsored, and he'll need a few meetings and greetings before going to his new forever home.

To set up a meeting, please come by or call us at (928) 526-0742.

Betty

Eight-year-old Betty is a long-time shelter dog who came in as a stray several times and did not get claimed this last time.



She's loving and sweet, does great with cats, kids, and everyone she meets. She's happiest as your single companion, so no other doggies for Betty.

She's growing very sad and lonely in the shelter, so do you know anyone who'd be interested in giving her the best years of her life? Please come to meet her for adoption or even foster! Her adoption fee has been sponsored.

Luna

Two-year-old Luna was left behind after some college students

moved this past April. She's a free roamer at High Country Humane and visits everyone in the lobby— especially kids!



She was a very upset fire-breathing dragon when she first came, but she really came around to us after a few weeks. She's her own queen and High Country Humane is her castle. She rules the place right now, and we would love for her to find her own castle...a real forever home!

Luna is great with kids, dogs and is the The Boss with other kitties. She's a beautiful cat, and her adoption fee has been sponsored. So if you know anyone who's looking for a princess, please have them come meet Luna today.

June

Year-old June came in with her three kittens several months ago. She's not feral, but is shy.

June would thrive in a home with other kitties or kittens. She's also okay with friendly dogs and very sweet with kids. She has a reduced adoption fee of just \$25.



If you'd like to meet June or any of our other animals up for adoption, please call us at (928) 526-0742.

High Country Humane Events

Here's a rundown of some of the events that go on at High Country Humane and around Flagstaff.

Low Cost Vaccination Clinic

If you live in Coconino County, we're here to provide you with a variety of vaccines at low costs to make sure your pets are happy and healthy! Our Vaccination Clinics are held at our shelter on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 8 am to 10 am. No appointments are necessary. We have a wide range of vaccinations, city & county dog licenses, AND microchips available! More information and pricing can be found on our website at highcountryhumane.org/vaccination-clinic

Pet Food Bank

Our food bank program provides free pet food to dogs and cats in low-income families in Coconino County. One of the most common reasons for a pet owner to

(Continued on page 18)

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Men in Animal Welfare – Where Are They?

Maybe they're out there, but they're hard to find!

By Jacqueline Vaughn

Sure, you've heard of the ones on TV, like *Dog Whisperer* Cesar Milan. And you might know about Cyrus Mejjia, one of the founders of Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, UT. Then there's John Garcia, star of *Dogtown* on the National Geographic Channel, and Brandon McMillan from the Emmy-award winning series, *Lucky Dog*. And what about the phenomenon of *The Vet Life* on the Animal Planet Channel, starring three hot male veterinarians, Dr. Diarra Blue, Dr. Aubrey "AJ" Ross, and Dr. Michael Lavigne? They are men who have made it fashionable and even cool to show their love and affection for animals. There are some who believe these names are more recognized than any of their female counterparts in the celebrity world of veterinary medicine and animal welfare.

In the August-September 2020 issue of *Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine*, we profiled three of the women who almost single-handedly run their own animal rescues in Northern Arizona, and in past issues, we have profiled other leaders in the field, both men and women. But in recent years, the number of men in executive roles, even if you include an expanded field that includes members of animal shelter Boards of Directors, has dwindled to the point where they are almost impossible to find.

This is somewhat surprising, given the fact that a recent national study showed that men are slightly more likely to own a dog than a woman (52% of men and 49% of women), and that men are also more likely to own a cat (37% to 33%). With all that love for animals going around, where are all the men in animal welfare roles in northern Arizona?

Some local men in leadership positions are not paid employees but volunteer their time to animal welfare as a community service. Ken Lamm, for example, serves as chair

of the High Country Humane Society Board of Directors and has been an important leader in the northern Arizona animal welfare scene for years. Lamm retired in 2004 and moved to the area after 30 years as an international marketing and branding consultant specializing in Fortune 500 companies, working with numerous nonprofit groups prior to coming to Flagstaff.

He previously served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies, as former Chair of the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) of Flagstaff Board of Directors, Vice Chair of the Grand Canyon Association Board of Directors, and as a Founding Member of STEM City Board of Directors.

As a member of ACF, Lamm initiated a \$25,000 endowed fund to support grants to animal welfare groups within the community. He moved on to support a small organization, Paw Placement of Northern Arizona, encouraging the group to apply for the contract with the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County to run an animal shelter at the facility previously managed by Second Chance Center for Animals.

Second Chance opened in 2004 and closed in 2017, and with Lamm's help, Paw Placement won the contract and re-opened as High Country Humane on January 2, 2019. Lamm is one of two men on the 11 member board. In comparison, while the majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of Sedona are men, all five of the paid leadership positions are filled by women.

Bill Larsen, who serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Verde Valley Humane Society in Cottonwood, is the only male on the eight member board. He began his involvement with the shelter several years ago as a volunteer dog walker before joining the Board two years ago. He sees his role as

more than someone who performs the duties of the president in that individual's absence. "In reality, this position can often be more of a consultant to the president, sharing ideas and discussing possibilities."

Tacy Pastor, the current executive director, works primarily with women as board members, paid staff, and volunteers.

Larsen admits that he doesn't know why there are so few men working in this field. "Volunteering," he notes, "has all the things a man looks for in challenge and reward and fun." He adds that "men possess a whole set of skills needed by this community resource."

If what Larsen says is true, then why are there so few men in paid leadership positions?

Municipal animal sheltering has frequently been criticized for having an employment revolving door. Personnel and personalities are always moving on to some other job, community, or career due to compassion fatigue, low pay, and few opportunities for advancement, especially in smaller communities. The comings and goings of shelter executive directors is exemplified by the recent experiences of Second Chance Center for Animals and the entity that replaced it, High Country Humane.



Sean Hawkins

Sean Hawkins, who had previously worked as director of strategic partnerships for the American Humane Association in Washington, D.C. and as vice president of philanthropy for the Pet Alliance of Great Orlando, Florida, came to Flagstaff to serve as executive director of Second Chance with an impressive record in the field before the organization folded due to financial pressures in early 2017.

He professionalized the organization and brought in new strategies for increasing adoptions and marketing the facility, one of the few men running a local shelter in Arizona. He left Second Chance when it closed and was hired in May 2017 as executive director of the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society in southern California, but left that job in January 2020 to accept a position as Chief Advancement Office for the Charleston Animal Society in South Carolina. The organization has a paid staff of over 100 and an \$8 million budget—a significant step up from both the Flagstaff position and the one in Santa Maria, both of which suffered financial woes that resulted in staff layoffs and programmatic cutbacks.

When High Country Humane opened in January 2019 in the facility previously operated as Second Chance, local Flagstaff resident Steve Conrad was hired as executive director. He brought with him a background in fundraising and grant writ-



Bill Larsen



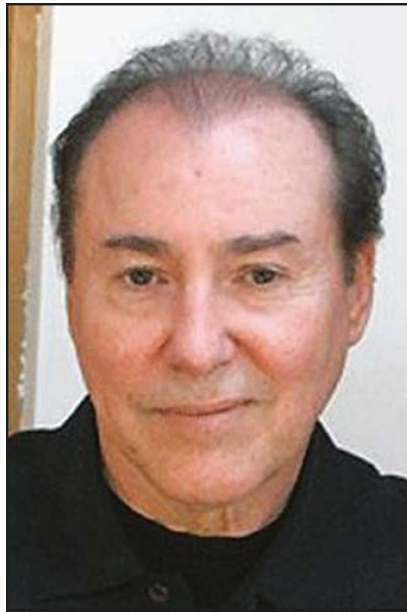
Steve Conrad

ing and development positions with a homeless services program and with a nonprofit that uses art to help abused and homeless children.

He had no experience in animal welfare, but presumably, brought other skills he learned from working with groups and volunteers before being hired. Conrad served for only a short time before he, too, moved on.

The two men were followed by two women with years of experience in the field, Liz Bohlke, who served as the High Country Humane board's treasurer prior to being named Interim Executive Director, and Liz Olson, who previously had served as the Director of Operations at the Humane Society of Sedona before being named Executive Director at High Country Humane in April 2020.

A similar revolving door has plagued the Verde Valley Humane Society. John Tamiazzo was hired as executive director of the nonprofit group after leaving his position with the Sedona Community Center. Prior to moving to Sedona, he spent much of his career in Santa Barbara teaching consciousness psychology and health and wellness courses, and serving as executive director of the Jodi House Brain Injury Center and in Ventura



John Tamiazzo

County with the Brain Injury Support Group.

In July 2020, Tamiazzo was hired as executive director of Showers of Blessing, which provides services to the Santa Barbara area's homeless. Like Steve Conrad, Tamiazzo had no animal welfare experience but had worked with nonprofit groups.

Michelle Ryan is unique among the region's animal welfare administrators. She began working for the Coconino Humane Association in 2003 as the Book Keeper, moving up to the position of Office Manager, then Director of Operations and eventually, to Executive Director.

Over the years, she has built up a strong network of community supporters, mentored others in the field, become a visible spokesperson for animal welfare, and established herself as someone who is invested in northern Arizona.

But does gender really matter? In her 2018 study of gender and leadership in animal sheltering organizations, Dr. Jennifer Blevins Sinski of the University of Louisville found striking differences in those led by women. She found that not only were women more likely to score higher on sev-

eral areas of organizational leadership and altruism, there were lower rates of canine euthanasia in women-led organizations. In addition, women, unlike men, tended to see animals as central to their identity as individuals. Those qualities may be the reason why the executive directors of all four of the Northern Arizona shelters are now women.

So where are the men?

One area where they have historically found a niche is the embattled environment of animal control, and the pejorative role of "dogcatcher." This field has traditionally been dominated by men, undoubtedly because most animal control agencies have been attached to law enforcement agencies—another career that has somewhat recently opened up to women.

Gene "Rock" Kurz, who works for the Sedona Police Department as a Community Service Officer, is somewhat affectionately known as "Deputy Dawg" although his job is vastly expanded from the guy with a catch pole of old. He can be found at the city's dog park or Yappy Hour reminding dog owners of the need to purchase a dog license, but he also attends social events for the Humane Society of Sedona, where his wife, Natalie Kurz, is a member of the shelter's Board of Directors.

Another career in animal welfare where men are beginning to be seen more often is among the animal care staff and veterinary technologists and technicians—the boots on the ground of any shelter.

Although one study found that nearly 3/4th of non-farm



Gene Kurz

animal caretakers who work in an animal welfare setting were women, that picture is changing. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employment of veterinary technologists and technicians is projected to grow 16% from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations.

As veterinarians continue to use their staff to do general care and lab work on household pets, the number of jobs openings is increasing, with positions open to trained caretakers regardless of gender. Many of them are Millennials like Antonio Lopez, Animal Care Supervisor at the Humane Society of Sedona.

He has worked at the shelter for about four years, and originally applied for the job, he says, on a whim. But like many his age who are looking for more than a paycheck or a career ladder to climb, Lopez now feels like he has made a difference at the end of the day. "All the hours and work you put into them really shows when you see that scared cat in a home, or dogs that were too frightened to allow you to pet them seeking affection and asking for pets."

MEN IN ANIMAL WELFARE -- WHERE ARE THEY?

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GIDGET: A 3-year-old petite Cairn terrier mix. Her dream person is a single, adult lady who will be her best friend and give her lots of cuddles! Loves walks and snuggly beds. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



JUSTICE: A 5-year-old male husky with the most beautiful blue eyes. He is a wonderful dog who loves people and the outdoors. He will make a terrific hiking companion! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



PANDA: A 7-year-old Alaskan Malamute which means he is BIG & FLUFFY! He for sure needs more space than the average doggo! He is good with people, kids especially, and loves toys. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



KENO: A female cattle dog mix, 8 months old. She is a very sweet but energetic girl. She need an experienced owner who can handle puppy energy. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



BUSTER: A 1-year-old Bullmastiff mix. He loves all things that squeak, swimming in the kiddie pool & of course hiking in these beautiful red rocks. He is very energetic & absolutely loves people! Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



MOJO: A dignified German Shepherd lady. She is 6 years old and enjoys walks. Sadly, she seems to still be looking for her ex-owner, so perhaps you could help heal her heart? Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



KAISER: A 10 years young and wonderful German Shepherd mix. he has plenty of energy and has been a wonderful hiking companion for staff and volunteers. Kaiser is super gentle & sweet. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



BALOO: A 3-year-old pointer mix, he is a sweet and well-mannered boy. I came to the shelter as a stray found in New Mexico. Loves people and walks. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



OBIE: This happy go lucky Tibetan terrier mix is longing for a home of his very own. Obie is a typical terrier, friendly and energetic. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



EDDIE BOY: A 5-year-old golden Chihuahua boy. He is cuddly and loves people. So if you want a good-looking boy who just wants to love you and share snuggles, Eddie's your boy! Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



PLUTO: A hound mix (probably treeing walker hound). He's a big, energetic love. He knows 'sit' and 'down' and walks well on leash. If you like big, silly dogs, Pluto is your guy! Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



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STAR (L) AND MOON (R): Star is a cute & very sweet 5-month-old golden tabby kitten with white trim and big green-gold eyes. He came in with his mother, Moon, a beautiful grey tabby with big golden eyes. They are both very loving, and very attached to each other. Moon just loves pets and attention, and Star does too! Sedona Humane Society 928-282-4679



CRI-KEE: A lovely 1-year-old male shorthair, silvery blue in color like a Russian Blue, with beautiful green eyes. He's sweet and very affectionate. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



KHALEESI: A 5-year-old female golden tabby with the most expressive green eyes. She is a sweet girl and absolutely loves getting pets and affection. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



LUNA: A 1-year-old female longhaired lady with a silvery grey coat and white trim. She has the most amazing long whiskers, too. She is playful, sassy, and very curious. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



PUFFER: A charming young adult male, mostly white with big red spots and beautiful green eyes. He's affectionate, intelligent and all around charming! Verde Valley Humane 928-634-7387



WAYLON: A charming young male kitten approximately 3 months old. He is a handsome cream and white fellow, active, affectionate, and playful. Verde Valley Humane 928-634-7387



WANDA: A pretty little girl approximately 3 months old. She is a brown tabby with lots of white trim, and with expressive green eyes. Cuddly and lots of fun! Verde Valley Humane 928-634-7387



JEWELS: A lovely 6-year-old female calico with a medium-length coat. She is sweet, affectionate, playful, and a funny girl with a sense of humor. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



MAPLE: A 2-year-old dark tortoiseshell lady with enormous golden eyes. She is clever, affectionate, and quite the explorer. She loves her toys and playing with people. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



TINK-TINK: An 8-year-old brown tabby lady with the cutest face! Very calm and quiet, but loves people and pets too. She's an affectionate and dignified lady to grace any home with love. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



BUTTERCREAM: A super-special 3-year-old female, white with golden spots. She was born with 3 legs plus a tiny 4th leg. She is lovely, friendly, and affectionate, and gets around just fine. Sedona Humane Society 928-282-4679



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Pet-Friendly Holidays

By Kristy Meyers



It has been quite the year, but there are still some milestones yet to come. With the upcoming holiday season, there are practical precautions to consider on behalf of your furry family members. Many things are common sense such as avoiding access to dangerous decorations, sensitive electronics, and toxic treats! Here is a quick breakdown to keep your pets safe all the way into 2021.

Howl-O-Ween Fun

The holiday season starts with costumes, treats, late nights, and big scares – but your furry family members should not feel spooked!

Remember that dressing up your pet, or yourself, can end up causing more harm than good. If your pets seem agitated, consider other ideas for costumes, or an alternative to Halloween apparel.

It may also help to consider the amount of new faces ar-

iving at your door when planning for the occasion.

The ASPCA recommends keeping your pets in a separate room and away from all doors during peak hours of trick-or-treating to avoid their distress or escape attempts. Speaking of trick-or-treating, always remember the toxins in chocolate and many sugar-free candies when leaving out your treats. In case of emergency, the ASPCA Poison Control Center can always be reached at (888) 426-4435.

Thanks-Giving Treats

Thanksgiving is a wonderful season to reflect on your blessings and enjoy a feast together.

Your pups would love to be included in the annual feast, but never give your furry family members undercooked breads or meats, and remember that turkey bones can be especially problematic for the digestive tract. Instead, consider preparing your pets their own special Thanksgiving meal.

Sweet potato and green beans are especially healthy for dogs, and there are many made-for-pets chews as an alternative to human food (ASPCA, 2020).

Be careful not to allow your pets to overindulge which

can lead to other gastrointestinal issues or inflammatory conditions... but try to find a way to include them in this delicious day! After all, many of us are most thankful for these beloved companions!

Big Slobbery Kiss-Mas

It's the most wonderful time of the year, except if it ends with a tragic trip to the veterinarian!

Did you know that holly, mistletoe, and even tinsel can cause serious medical issues in pets?

Consider artificial plants on your mantel, avoid the sparkly decorations, and beware of the issues potentially caused by decorating your Christmas tree this year. Instead, plan for more pet-friendly decorations and even hang a small stocking on the mantel to fill with treats and toys for them!

If you think you must be mindful about your holiday eating, imagine the issues you will have on your hand if your pup eats the wrong things!

The ASPCA has a page, "People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets" if you ever have your doubts. As we approach the winter festivities and your schedule fills with festive fun, be careful to maintain your pet's routines as well as their normal dietary considerations. This will make your season even more joyful in the end.

New Dog-Years' Eve

When you prepare to pop the cork and ring in the new year,



Penny. Courtesy Penny Lane Photography

remember to go easy on behalf of your furry companions. Champagne and other cocktails, confetti, late nights, and especially fireworks can be harmful to your pet's health and wellness.

New Years' Eve can be a stressful holiday, especially after an already busy season of celebrations. When you make your plans and craft your resolutions, it is wise to think about the pets in your home.

At this point, hopefully you understand the importance of considering your pets as you plan your holidays. This may sound like quite the cautionary article, but with some considerations you can ensure an incredible season for all.

There are many festivities around the corner for us to finish the year with lighter spirits, but we all have responsibilities as well. Spend your time with loved ones. Enjoy the special occasions. Set resolutions. Indulge a little. But not at the expense of your beloved pets.

Keep them safe this year indoors or in a quieter space, far from the dangerous decor, and away from all those toxic treats. Beware the holiday horrors that can occur when they stick their nose into your celebrations.



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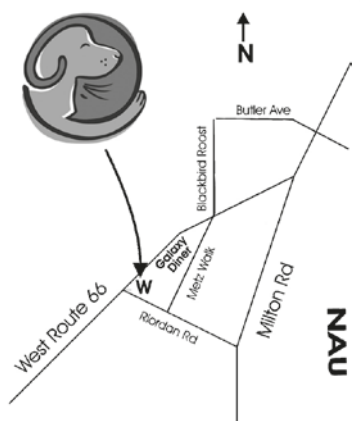
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Hiking with Annie: Wickiup Dry Wash

By Melissa Bowersock

Anyone who's been in Arizona for a while knows well the sight of dry washes cutting through dusty hillsides or gouging canyons out of low-lying ground. They can be as shallow as a few inches deep and barely that wide, or hundreds of feet deep and as wide as a mile. It's also common knowledge that most of these are dry 99% of the time. Arizona has very few sources of permanent water (Oak Creek, the Verde River, the Colorado), so everything else is seasonal, if that.

Because of the dryness, these washes make perfect hiking trails into the wilderness. There are many to choose from all around Arizona, but my favorite in Camp Verde is Wickiup Creek. This is located about five miles east of town on Highway 269. There is a parking area on Sierra Verde Road just off 269, and another maybe a quarter mile up the road to the Transfer Station; from either of these places, it's a short walk to the wash itself.



Wickiup Creek Wash

As with all outside activities in Arizona, it's important to be mindful of both the weather and the topography. Because dry washes are low-lying areas where the water (when it runs) takes the path of least resistance, they are quite a bit hotter than the surrounding higher terrain in the summer, and quite a bit colder in the winter. In summertime, the shadeless stretches of sand can be uncomfortably hot on a dog's feet, and the reflective quality of the sand means the heat radiates up from it. Anyone hiking in the warm months should be sure to bring plenty of water for themselves and their pets, and take frequent shade breaks when possible.

Annie, my Airedale, tends to run hot anyway, so I have to be very aware of her condition as we walk. If she's overheated, she makes no bones about telling me; she'll collapse in a pool of shade and refuse to move. She also loves what we call "swimming sand." This is very fine-grained sand

that retains the night's coolness as long as it's in shade, and Annie will dig down, then literally "swim" into it, letting it cool her body. Our walks are leisurely, and I let her have as much time as she needs in the cool sand. When she's had a good break, she's then ready to go on without complaint.

The weather is another important factor. Obviously the heat of summer can be extreme.

The cold chill of winter is easy enough to dispel with warm clothes or active exercise. The really dangerous weather comes during the rainy seasons, whether winter rains in February or summer rains during the monsoon. At those times, with Arizona's penchant for scattered storms, it might be raining high up on the Mogollon Rim, but not down on the lower levels below. In those cases, flash floods can come thundering down the wash without warning.

The good thing about Wickiup Creek wash is that the stream bed is fairly narrow but flanked by slightly higher and wider shoulders below the cliffs. During all but biblical flooding, the aware hiker could run to higher ground and escape. I'd still advise hikers to check the weather forecast and keep an eye on the sky.

The weather can affect the wash in other ways, as well. The runoff, whenever it occurs, is constantly eating away at the base of the cliffs, eroding the lower levels of compacted dirt and sand. This erosion can cause cracks in the cliffs, and even sculpt "hoodoos," free-standing pillars of earth that may be only loosely attached to the walls of the cliffs. They may look solid, but the truth is, one never knows when one of these pillars might give way and collapse into the wash. If you're standing below, that's what I call a bad day. I generally give hoodoos a wide berth, just in case.

Rain can create other, more surprising challenges, as well. Wickiup Creek has



Annie in Swimming Sand

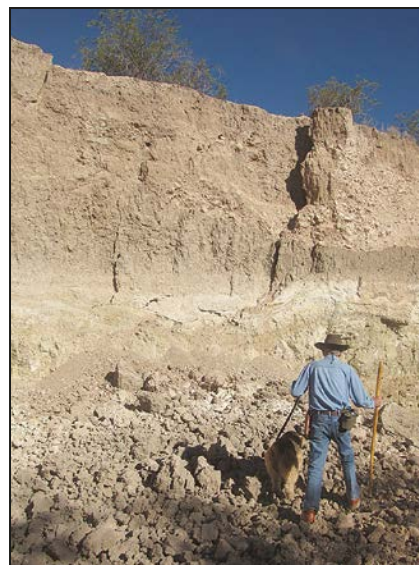
many pockets of clay in its bed, and after a good rain, the clay becomes inordinately sticky. I wouldn't compare it to quicksand—it's too thick for that—but it definitely grabs onto boot soles and dog paws and is not easily dislodged.

One time we went hiking in winter when isolated showers were forecast, but who fears a few drops of rain? We found out very quickly that a few drops can

turn clay into a sticky mess, and Annie was not happy with the clumps of green goo that wedged up in between her toes. She tried to chew the clay out, but the only way to get her really clean was a combination of foot-washing and deep brushing, neither of which she was happy about.

Dry washes are typically a haven for wildlife, and a hiker might see quail, rabbits, squirrels, coyotes, javalina, foxes, and even deer. Unless a dog is 100% perfect on recall, it's probably best to keep them leashed. Once when I was training Annie in recall, she hared off after something—probably a rabbit—and in just seconds had bounded over a ridge and completely disappeared from sight. No amount of squeaking her favorite toy or the promise of treats would bring her back, not until she was good and ready, which ended up being about twenty minutes. Longest twenty minutes of my life. We kept to the leash for quite some time after that.

Hiking Arizona's dry washes can be a peaceful, almost zen-like experience, or it can be more exciting than a hiker might wish. If you become familiar with a wash, you'll no doubt notice the changes from season to season, from wet to dry, whether it's the scouring out of loose rock by thundering floods or the abrupt mountain of dirt dumped by a collapsing hoodoo. As with most locations in Arizona, it's an ever-changing landscape, and can be much appreciated by dogs and humans who enjoy it wisely.



Author's husband and Annie navigating a collapsed hoodoo.

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Project Dog: Wrangler

By Jolie Dorrell

He was unadoptable. In fact, they gave him to us. "No adoption fee on that one. You can have him."

"What? Why?" I asked, watching the large, wary Shepherd mix attempt to hide in the back of his humane society cage.

"One of the dog food companies gives us money for dogs that no one will take, and no one wants him. Look at him. Been chained up on a ranch for five years. The wife brought him and that other one in because she started to feel bad for them."

She gestured to a different dog who seemed to be doing a little better than Rattler, as I learned his name was.

"Who had them?"

She told me the name and I shuddered. The family was well-known hellraisers, wild and not above shooting unwanted dogs—theirs or other people's. It figured they'd named him Rattler. I could imagine what he had endured at their hands.

"What's he like?"

"Well, he hasn't bit anyone."

I stared at him, curled away from us in the far back corner of his cage. His long shaggy furfur was unkempt, his food untouched. He eyed me. I eyed him.

"We'll take him," I said.

We had been fostering animals for the local shelter for years, and the shelter employee knew the dog would be safe with us. I just wondered if we would be safe with him.

Susie and I eased the big boy out of his cage. He had been neutered upon arrival at the shelter, so he was a bit tender. He climbed into the back



seat of our truck, hunkered down, and off we went to the house.

He refused to go inside. It took treats and begging to get him onto the hardwood floor, and he was like Bambi on ice. Then he went over and lifted his leg on the trash can.

After christening the place, he hid behind the couch. He watched,

learned our routine, and we knew he came out to eat at night because his bowl would be empty in the morning.

Our moves as a family became very calculated based on his reactions. We learned not to swing a coat around us to put it on, because he would hit the deck and crawl away. Loud men's voices on the TV petrified him. No one slammed a door anymore. We couldn't pass him in the hallway because he'd back all the way down the hallway rather than pass close to us. Changing sheets or the tablecloth became an ordeal, because fluffing a large item up in the air petrified him. He would melt into a big puddle of fear.

He slowly let us pet him and began to enjoy being stroked and loved. It was then that we found the physical marks of abuse. Half of his teeth were gone on the bottom. His ears were scarred from either frostbite or old wounds.

As time passed, Wrangler, as we renamed him, settled into our family. As his triggers eased over the years, his quirks came out. His wonderful personality started to show!

After we collected chicken eggs, if the kids didn't put them away, during the night Wrangler would carefully spread the eggs all around the

living room, without breaking one. He's never even cracked an egg in his creation of egg hunts for us.

He also likes to hide a boot in the weeds or sagebrush around the house. Just one boot. We have to go searching to make a match.

Another fun game of his is emptying backpacks or purses without damaging a thing. Don't leave your bag out overnight because everything will be in a pile in the morning, without a mark on it.

He loves chicken, and I mean the kind with the feathers still on. I drove up the lane one day and caught him with a live chicken. When he saw the truck, he frantically started digging a hole and burying it—alive. When we were losing birds at a steady rate, we finally discovered it was him causing the damage. Worse, he had a special cemetery of his "ladies" that he visited almost daily.

His improvement continues. Within the last year, he has begun to let us step over him if he is laying on the floor rather than jumping up in a panic if someone steps too close. Food, however, is still an issue for him. He whines and nearly crawls to the bowl, then eats on his stomach warily and submissively. He will not enter a small room, such as a bathroom or closet, to save his life.

Besides his quirks, the unadoptable dog has turned out



to be quite a find. He has gotten to the point that he comes to school with me sometimes. They even suggested that he come on his own so that children can interact with him! I think children can learn from him, and he can learn from them. When he is at the school, he patiently allows everyone to love and pet him. How's that for a happy ending for this treasure of a dog?

However, it has taken four and a half years of patience and one-on-one time invested in him. He doesn't play. He has an old soul that does not understand chasing a ball or swimming for fun. Everything he does seems to have a purpose. Silly dogs that chase sticks or do tricks are foolish, and he watches them at the park with thoughtful eyes. It's as if he lived in misery for so long that he has no time for games, just for quiet walks or some slow tail wagging.

(Rescue Tales continued on page 19)

(High Country Humane continued from page 8)

give up their companion is due to financial hardship. Our Pet Food Bank is held at the shelter on the 4th Saturday of every month from 1 pm to 3 pm. Applications can be found online at highcountryhumane.org/pet-food-bank. You can donate pet food to the shelter any day between 11 am and 5 pm.

Adoption Events at PetSmart & Flagstaff Mall

We are so excited to announce the reopenings of our Offsite Adoption Events!! You'll be able to meet, play, and adopt some of our amazing dogs and puppies while you shop at Flagstaff's

PetSmart AND the Flagstaff Mall. Please keep an eye on our website calendar at highcountryhumane.org/calendar for the upcoming dates and times. We'll see you there!

2020 Flagstaff (Virtual) Doggie Dash

This year's 5k Doggie Dash held by Trail GangstAZ will be online. Run or walk a 5k in support of High Country Humane from October 2nd to October 12th. Visit flagstaffdoggiedash.com to register and learn all about it! 50% of registration and merchandise fees, AND 100% of donations, will go to us here at HCH! We are SO grateful to Trail GangstAZ and can't wait to see everyone's pictures and videos!

(Continued from page 18)



Nala

We reached out to our partner High Country Humane in Flagstaff to see if they needed help. They had four Shepherd puppies who were three months old and found living under someone's deck. All were unsocialized and almost feral as no one had ever touched them, but we knew they deserved a chance at a wonderful life. So Zazu, Willy, Buddy, and Nala came to us in January 2020.

Nala, the only girl in the group was by far the most shy and untrusting of humans. Her brothers were able to acclimate to shelter life and soon



made progress. One by one, all were adopted, but Nala remained.

For eight months not one person was able to pet Nala, but she had one saving grace: she adored other dogs and never met a dog she didn't like. Dogs were one way into Nala's heart, but she needed more.

A family came to see another dog, but it didn't work: Nala was barking in her kennel because she wanted to meet their dog. They asked, "What about her?" We explained Nala's story and this family was

committed to trying to foster her. Though we were nervous, we were excited for Nala.

In just two days, Nala became a completely different dog. She was calm, as they allowed her time and space to adjust to her new surroundings. She was always near their dog and soon allowed her new family to get closer to her.

We began receiving miraculous pictures and videos of Nala with her family. This puppy, who once cowered in the corner shaking with fear—this beautiful creature who never allowed anyone to touch her—was slowly opening her heart to humans.

Nala had every reason to not trust people but because of the patience, pure love and dedication of this family, Nala blossomed. Not only are they now able to pet her, but she lays her head in their lap.

Nala is the perfect example of why foster homes are so vital

for animals in the shelter. She struggled in the shelter when a real home was what she actually needed. Fostering animals saves lives. Not every animal is as complex as Nala, but everyone is just as deserving.

We're always looking for foster homes and currently have several dogs and cats who would benefit from a home even if temporarily. Please contact us at (928) 282-4679 if you can provide a loving place in your heart and home for an animal in need.

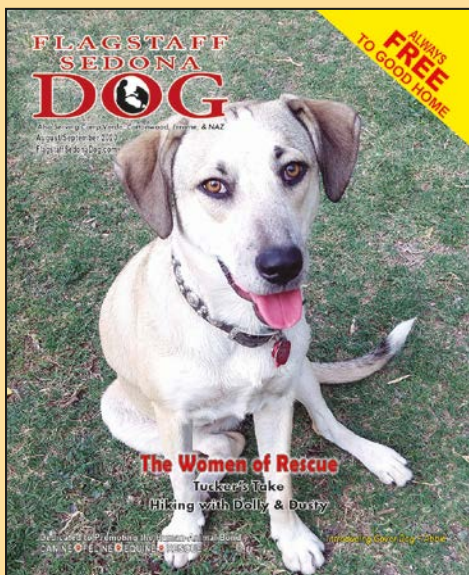


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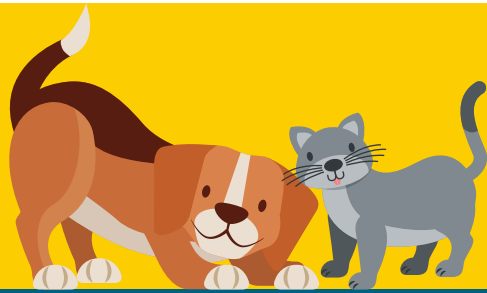
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2. Use the subject line: Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Cover Dog.
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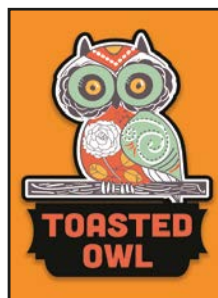


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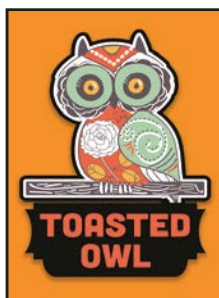
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Chase's Corner

By Sir Chase and Jan Tomlinson

This CoVid19 thing is really messing up my dog shows! Now there aren't any shows in Arizona until at least January. So, my mom has had to find creative ways to keep me busy and happy.

We have a big Arizona room in our house, so that makes a great training school! I have been working on some of the very advanced obedience exercises for the highest level of competition. One day we worked on "articles."

Now, articles are nothing more than dumbbells that are made of wood and leather and have numbers on them. Right now, I am working on the wood ones. There are four other "articles" out in a pile (separated, of course), and then my mom rubs cheese and her hands on another one of them. I think it is number 6. You know I can read and count.

She tries to trick me by putting her article somewhere in the pile without

me looking. I do have eyes in the back of my head, but I don't tell her that. So, I run out to the pile, pitch all of the articles without cheese on them out of the way and bring back the correct one. Since each one has a number on it, I just look until I see the number 6! I am supposed to be using my nose, but why do that when I can just read the number. I have her fooled on that one!

The next exercise we worked on was called "Directed Jumping." She sends me out away from her about 15' and tells me to touch the end of the sofa. Now that is really a stupid exercise since we don't have any jumps in the house and when we get out to the training field, we don't have a sofa for me to touch! I'm not sure how we are going to figure this one out!



The final exercise we did was "Gloves." Now, I thought that gloves were meant to be worn on the hands or paws, but NO, I have to run out and pick it up in my mouth and bring it back to her. And, even then, she doesn't put it on her hand! I have to sit with my back to 3 gloves spread far apart

and then see which one she points to for me to get. Remember, I have eyes in the back of my head. Maybe she has a favorite one that I have to bring back to her. I tell you, these humans are really strange sometimes. The one good thing about this exercise is if we are out walking and someone has dropped their glove, I can pick it up and get it back to them.

That is all the training advice I have for you this month. Until next time!

~Sir Chase

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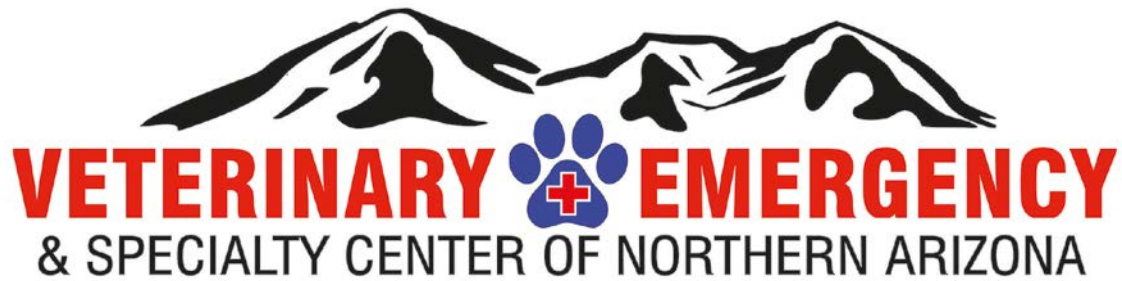


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