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# FLAGSTAFF SEDONA DOG

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## Mitsi, Our Cover Dog



**Name:** My name is Mitsi.

**Age:** I'm only ten weeks old.

**Hometown:** Cottonwood

**Favorite Brand of Kibble:** Buffalo Blue Puppy Chow. \*nom nom nom\*

**Favorite Toy:** My chew ring with ball!

**Favorite Outdoor Activity:** I love to chase around the other dog at my house – a 6-year-old English Springer Spaniel.

**Favorite Indoor Activity:** Running sprints around the house. Zoom!

**Favorite Nap Spot:** At the foot of Mom and Dad's bed!

**Perfect Canine Pet:** Loving, playful, loyal, and protective.

**Perfect Day:** A day full of running, playing, snuggling, and of course, napping.





# Tucker's Take

## General Store – A Seasonal Dream

I was here before, briefly, back when my birth-mom told me of Toby and the store he lived in. When I was still very small, she had pulled me into her ample white mane below her chin and told me yet another story about my ancestors. My siblings were busy romping and trampling each other with great enthusiasm. I must have drifted off during her story.

I found myself in a large indoor space with counters, shelves, and a big Royal Oak wood stove in the center. Several chairs and stools sat empty around the stove. I looked around for Toby, who I was told was a massive white dog with pointed ears, one of those ears bearing a long scar. It was night time and dark, but even with the moon shining through the storefront windows, I didn't see him before one of my "beefier" brothers rolled across mom's head and landed on top of me, waking me before bounding away. Mom checked me over and lulled me back to sleep, washing the inside of my ears, but I didn't return to my dream.

All these years later from that dream, here I am again. I instantly knew where I was. It was morning this time, and the store's owner was behind the counters, cleaning the glass top that displayed many jars of candy. He was chuckling along with several men gathered around the stove. They must be the "spit and whittle club" birth-mom had told me about.

I looked around from where I was sitting for Toby, even turning to look out the front windows to see if he was outside. No luck.

One of the oldest men seated around the stove was very animated when he spoke, and being seated in a rocking chair, he was traveling with his chair in little rhythmic spurts whenever he felt he needed to emphasize something. A big can that was next to his chair moments before, was now slightly behind him and this explained the stain on the wooden floor, and why they were called the "spit and whittle club".

One of the other men stood up to refill his cup from the coffee pot on top of the stove, and looking out the front windows pointed his cup towards the front door exclaiming, "Here come the buggies, Hezekiah."

All eyes, including mine turned to the windows as we watched several horse-drawn wagons and cutters pulling up to front of the store. Children and parents disembarked in heavy winter garb, trudging or bounding, (depending on age), through the morning's snowfall, up the stairs to the porch where the older folks handed out pennies to gloved children's hands.

I heard the owner say, "you're up, Toby." I turned to see what looked like a white lion or bear unfold himself from behind the wood stove. Instead of heading to the door where the sound of children

wafted into the warmth of the store, Toby headed to his Dad and sat as near as he could to him while watching the door.

I was so taken with his apparent strength and size. I swelled with pride at his patience and regal bearing as the doors flew open and children made a noisy beeline for the candy display. Some greeted Mr. Hezekiah Wilson, most greeted Toby with quick head rubs and pats. Toby in response pant-ed and smiled, but kept his station, near his Dad.

On the other hand, Hezekiah Wilson was very busy as the younger children had trouble making up their minds, while the older ones spoke over each other with their choices. Hands exchanged coins and sweet morsels.

My eyes were drawn again to Toby, and I noticed neither of his ears had scars. Wait, maybe I'm wrong, but whoever he is, he's a lot like me. Business and duty first.

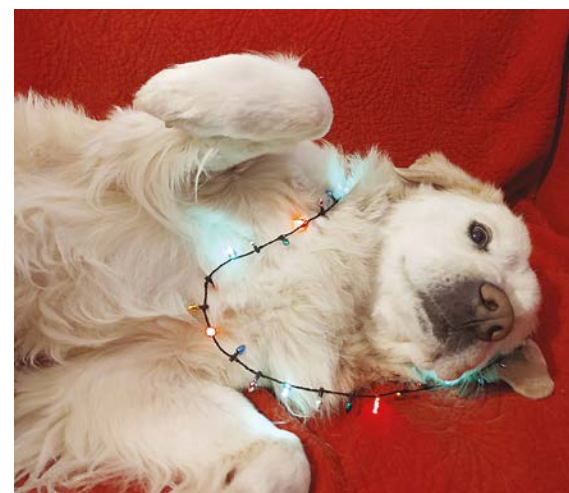
The men around the stove bantered with the children between the chewing of candy on one hand and the chewing of tobacco on the other. From their fragmented conversations, I heard the children and their parents outside had just come from church and were excited about the Christmas service they were going to in the evening. I hadn't noticed until the children mentioned it; a large Christmas tree in the corner of the store with banners and garland strung above it from the high ceiling. My tail started wagging as the holiday season is one of my most favorite times.

Toby's Dad then handed out ornaments to all the kids to add to the tree and as they were busy doing that, Toby pricked up his ears and stood up listening intently above the chattering and laughing. He turned towards a back doorway behind the counters, but then sat again as the children began to wind down and say their goodbyes to the men around the stove.

One boy and his younger brother stopped in front of the store owner while the older boy coaxed the younger. "Go ahead, ask him," he repeated nudging his brother's arm. The younger looked up sheepishly, "Mr. Wilson, were you in the war?" The boy pointed up to a very large painting hanging above all the shelving.

The painting depicted some kind of battle with canons and soldiers. It was so large it was hard to take it all in. There were hills and trees, farm-houses, and every section had a skirmish of one kind or another.

"Yes I was Timmy, I was even in the battle in that painting." Mr. Hezekiah Wilson had turned to look up at the painting when the old man in the rocking chair spit, (and missed the can, again), said, "Hezekiah, tell him where you are in that painting." The store owner chuckled softly, "Timmy do you see the big oak tree in the middle of the field?" "Yes sir," the boy said shifting slightly



to get a better look at the tree. "Well, I'm hiding right behind it, shaking like a wet kitten."

The burst of laughter from everyone around him made the young boy wonder if he was part of a joke and his face had flushed slightly when all of a sudden Toby leapt and raced past everyone through the back entryway, and a loud crash followed. Mr. Wilson ran after him and yelled for one of the men to come and help him. More crashes and shouting, then Mr. Wilson came back into the store walking Toby by his thick mane. One of Toby's ears was bleeding.

Everyone gathered in a circle around Toby and his Dad as he knelt pulling off his apron and applying pressure to Toby's ear. "A raccoon got into the store room and was after the molasses, Toby must've heard him," Mr. Wilson said to no one in particular. The young inquisitive boy asked if Toby was going to be OK. "He'll be alright...can't say the same for the raccoon though."

One of the old men handed Mr. Wilson a brown bottle of something to put on Toby's ear. You could tell Toby didn't like that one bit, but he didn't make a sound or try to pull away. He even looked directly at me for some seconds. I didn't know I could be seen in this dream, but as he looked right at me, I realized that I had come from good stock.

I looked around at the people, the festive decorations, the painting of a war from long ago. These people had all come through something hard and heartbreaking, but their community, their hearts, still carried a warmth for each other. One of my great-great grand-dogs was there with them doing his best with patience and loyalty.

The room began to fade and as I floated towards wakefulness. I heard the old man in the rocking chair say, "Hezekiah, you should give Toby a medal. Ya' cain't have gingerbread without molasses...and ya' cain't have Christmas without gingerbread."

*Happy Holidays to All,  
Tucker Oso*

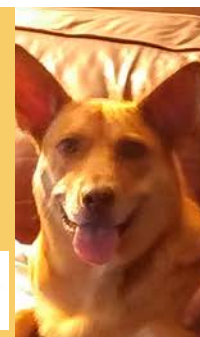


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# Sacred Peaks Equine Sanctuary

by Rita Thompson-Tinsley

When Kathy Oliver was a kid, she spent her time working in a boarding facility. She remembers being very sad whenever her favorite older horses were hauled off, never to return. As an adult, she never forgot that feeling, so after raising kids and living her life, she decided that her passion could be put to good use serving the needs of the equine universe.

With the help of special grants and donations, Sacred Peaks Equine Sanctuary in Flagstaff became a 501(c)3, in order to foster and rehabilitate horses rescued from the slaughter pipeline. They also strive to raise awareness of the equine slaughter industry in the US and promote adoption of horses at risk for slaughter and measures to reduce over-breeding of horses resulting in overpopulation and inhumane treatment.

The Flagstaff facility, which is spread out over 10 acres, includes Oliver's residence, a barn for boarding that serves to help support the rescue, and a series of large-sized pens with run-in sheds for the rescues. She currently has 7 horses and 2 donkeys, but at times she has had many more mouths to feed. Kathy has been able to adopt out 7 previous rescues.

The facility has a big hay barn so that she is able to get good hay prices by buying in quantity, and a nice arena for hosting horse clinics which help to fund the sanctuary.

One of the grants for Sacred Peaks helps to pay training fees, though



Kathy Oliver riding Timber at Man Against Horse. Photo courtesy Susan Kordish Cowgirl Photography.

Kathy works with many of the rescues. Donations are critical for feed, dentals, and proper health and hoof care for each animal.

When contemplating the situation of rescue horses, Kathy has determined that in the majority of "kill pen" horse auction cases, the horse has merely ended up in the wrong hands. Many horse owners who resort to auctioning off their unwanted horse do not realize the likelihood of their horse going to slaughter. Many others simply don't care. Oliver has the incomparable ability to spot a horse's qualities, abilities, and probabilities. She sees through their current state and sees a future.



Alchemy showing new found confidence with Dr. Tesky. Photo courtesy Kathy Oliver.

While having the Arabian rescue Alchemy transported, she recognized his lack of confidence and didn't want that to be an issue traveling to her facility. So, Kathy brought in another rescue, a small mustang, Timber, to be Alchemy's traveling companion.

As fate would have it, Timber soon became Kathy's favorite mount and after months of time on the trail, Timber and Kathy were partners in the annual Man Against Horse Race at Mingus Mountain in October.

Many of the equine rescues at Sacred Peaks are performing an invaluable purpose by serving as therapy animals for another non-profit organization, 15 Hands



Kathy's endurance Mustang, Timber, serving as a therapy horse. Photo courtesy Mardi Devolites.

& Hearts. They offer physical therapy using the equine environment and equine movement as a treatment tool. They set up shop at Sacred Peaks Equine Sanctuary on a regular schedule for children and adults with mental health and physical disabilities.

Another rescue equine with lots of pizzazz and personality plus is Chaco the donkey. Standard-size Chaco is well trained to pack and likely drives as well. Soon, he too will be hitting the therapy circuit.

Kathy Oliver has discovered what it takes to develop and operate an effective equine rescue. It takes a whole lot of vision and a world full of hope to impactfully turn around the unfortunate path of too many 'misplaced horses'.

To learn more about Sacred Peaks Equine Sanctuary, Like them on Facebook.

SACRED PEAKS EQUINE SANCTUARY



## Rescue Resources

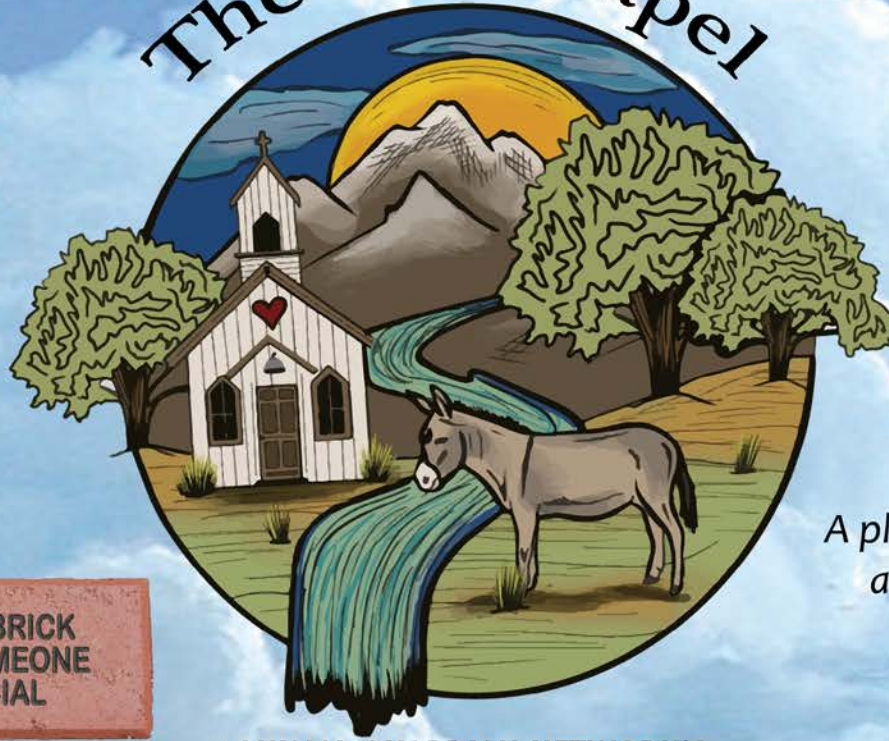
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# Animal Welfare Fundraising in Covid Times

by Jacqueline Vaughn

You can't escape the news coverage about the pandemic—it's everywhere—whether the statistics are about the number of cases or deaths, or the unemployment rate and businesses closed, or any of the unintended consequences of the spread of COVID 19. As policymakers pondered how to respond (or not respond) to the unprecedented numbers of lives affected by the novel virus, they may not have anticipated the impact of small non-profit organizations whose operations depend on local fundraising.

In the June-July 202 issue of *Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine* ("Local Rescues, Shelters Vary in Pandemic Response," by Jacqueline Vaughn) we shared how local animal welfare groups were attempting to adjust their operations to meet changing conditions. In this issue, we shift gears to cover how they are trying to stay financially afloat while the seemingly endless illness takes not only more lives but depletes organizational bank accounts in an environment of reduced charitable giving.

On the national level, *The Wall Street Journal* reported in August 2020 that the coronavirus has led to nearly \$13 billion in donations, mostly to relief funds, medical and vaccine research, which is more than all the donations to 12 other big disasters combined, including the funds raised after the 9/11 attacks and Hurricanes Harvey and Sandy. Much of that money came from big donors such as Google, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with most of the money designated for communicable disease control and vaccine development.

But even among the heavy hitters in health care, groups like the American Cancer Society and the March of Dimes saw their revenues cut in half. Other groups, the Journal found, initially curbed their fundraising because of the emphasis on donations for food pantries and help for front line workers like nurses and teachers.

The Fundraising Effectiveness Project found that while donations were up in January and February 2020, they dropped 11% in March, and even steeper declines are expected by the end of the year. More than two-thirds of the 850 professional fundraisers questioned in May 2020 said they had already canceled at least one fundraising event, and a quarter said they had canceled three or more events.

Other non-profit groups noted that state and local governments were cutting back, or eliminating altogether, grants to organizations as their own revenues took a hit from sagging sale taxes or donors.



Red Rose Art Show

Similarly, patterns of charitable giving have changed during the pandemic. In mid-May 2020, a report from Indiana University's Women's Philanthropy Institute found that 56% of U.S. households were engaged in charitable giving to help their neighbors through the crisis.

CNBC.com noted that older Americans, who typically give more than other age groups, were less likely to engage in giving, perhaps because they were concerned about their own financial outlook, given the virus' risk profile for those over age 65 and fears out whether they would have high medical expenses. Single women were more likely to decrease giving than single men or married couples. The fundraising picture changed again in the second half of 2020 as the Black Lives Matter protests ensued alongside calls for help for social justice organizations, massive wildfires scorched the West causing billions of dollars in damage to homes and property, tourism, and forests, and the 2020 election cycle, which drew donors big and small to not only the presidential race, but also to local and state contests and initiatives.

It is against this background that animal welfare organizations, both at the national and local levels, found themselves competing for dollars. While the competition is not new, these groups have seldom faced the level of competition that 2020 has brought. Nor have they faced the sea change in how they raise money, forced to cancel in-person events in favor of virtual ones, and cutting back on the very positions needed to increase contributions, such as development officers, grant writers, and marketing staff, and realizing this is an enduring crisis, rather than a blip on their planning calendar. What have they done?

## The Virtual Fundraiser

Many of the larger local groups initially began by looking at their fundraising scheduling calendar, making determinations of which events would have to be cancelled

or postponed. In some cases, this meant a closer look at venue contracts which tied them to a go/no go date on changes in plans without penalty. Others looked at whether labor-intensive events involving large numbers of volunteers (especially those in high risk groups) should be or even could be changed to something more manageable using paid (or younger staff).

For the Humane Society of Sedona (HSS), making a change to a virtual event was especially difficult. The shelter's annual Gala,

held each fall as the organization's only fundraising event, brings in thousands of dollars in donations from sponsors, attendees, and proceeds from both a live and silent auction. By going virtual and staging the Gala over the course of a week, there were no ticket sale revenues, no live auction, and several items in the silent auction did not get bids. There with issues with the technology for registering for the silent auction and bidding that kept all but the savviest of supporters from participating.

High Country Humane in Flagstaff was one of many that kept the event but changed the format, turning its Doggie Dash into a virtual activity with the help of another organization, trailgangstaz. Instead of having an event outdoors, they were the beneficiaries of a virtual 5K Run/Walk with or without a dog. Participants could complete the distance anywhere and anytime from October 2-12. Participants were asked to share their photos and videos on Facebook or Instagram to win prizes from the event's sponsors. Fifty percent of all event registrations and 100% of all donations were contributed to High Country Humane.

Red Rose Inspiration for Animals continued to rely upon two of its signature fundraisers—its Red Rose Thriftique store in the Village of Oak Creek, and its Sedona Art Festivals. The first show for fall, held over the Columbus Day weekend, drew dozens of artists who displayed their wares in a local parking lot, drawing in visitors looking for a socially-distanced outdoor event. The group's website notes that 90% of its funding comes from these two sources, and despite City of Sedona restrictions on holding the art shows in the spring that delayed the art shows until October, they remain a highly successful tool for the small organization.

## Selling Stuff

Although certainly not new, groups that had previously attempted to focus on big-ticket events tried to switch to tried-and-true



sales. Especially attractive were products or services where the organization relied on a partner to do the manufacturing and distribution, while the group provided the customer base and advertising. The Humane Society of Sedona, for instance, partnered with Sedona Soap Box to sell its products in exchange for 40% of each sale going to the shelter. Customers simply typed in a code on their order form and the company did the rest, while HSS promoted their sugar scrub and soap in their two thrift stores and in their Facebook posts.



Sedona Soap Box

Central Arizona Animal Search and Rescue, based in Camp Verde, went back to holding yard sales in Cottonwood in October. Long before the pandemic, this had been one of the group's primary methods for raising money, and with supporters still cleaning out their garages and closets, there was plenty of stuff to go around.

### Local Partnerships

Although not new, there seemed to be an increasing number of events involving local partners who held fundraising events that did not involve social distancing. In Cottonwood, for instance, the local Papa Murphy's Take & Bake Pizza store offered to donate \$3 from every pizza sold on one early October day to the Verde Valley Humane Society. Biff's Bagels, a Flagstaff institution, sold raffle tickets with the proceeds benefitting the Tuba City Humane Society as part of its 25 years in business, and the Yavapai Humane Society held a similar raffle ticket event in October in conjunction with Findlay Toyota Company, with a new 2020 car as the grand prize.

### In-Kind Donations

At first it was toilet paper, then paper towels, bleach, and hand sanitizer. Not

only were animal rescue groups having a hard time at making ends meet, they were having difficulty obtaining supplies to keep kennels clean, laundry washed, and employees safe. Later, requests for in-kind donations expanded to include the Verde Valley Humane Society's efforts to find a professional audio/video company or technology expert who could help them develop their lobby video using existing equipment.

### Straightforward Appeals for Money

And then there's the time-tested approach that may be both the easiest and the hardest of all—asking for money. The one used by High Country Humane is exemplary of the soft touch—a photo with the word DONATE at the bottom and the accompanying copy which read, "We are YOUR Flagstaff City and Coconino County shelter. That means your donations go DIRECTLY to the health and wellness of animals and families in your communities. We are so grateful for your support and generosity." This limited appeal did not paint an image of starving kittens or grungy-looking cages; it was just a clean, simple message of asking for help.



High Country Humane

Similarly, the Tuba City Humane Society, which is foster-based and does not have facility, continued to ask donors for specific animals in need. One example is Lucky, a black and white cat transferred to Canyon Pet Hospital in Flagstaff for emergency care. The group posted photos of Lucky being treated, and a click of a button directed supporters to the donation section of their website.

In the pine forests of sparsely populated Parks, west of Flagstaff, the Ark Cat



Tuba City Humane Rescue, Lucky

Sanctuary has never been able to hold big events, hire a fundraiser, or use many of the strategies other groups are trying. Instead, it has been somewhat successful in using online fundraising through Facebook.

The platform encourages individuals to ask friends and family members to give money to support a cause or need identified on the group's page, with a goal of raising a specific amount of money. Donors may choose to be anonymous, and there is a real time graphic that shows how much money has been raised over a three week period toward the supporter's goal. Everything is done electronically through Facebook without charge, without a need for social distancing or masks, and with minimal set up effort.

The most common of the appeals ask for donations instead of a birthday gift, with an explanation of why the group is important to the individual. Typical of the birthday appeals was from someone seeking \$200 in donations for The Ark; others asked for amounts ranging from \$50 to \$800, with varying degrees of success. The Ark also used this same mechanism to raise money for 10 kittens with ringworm and for funding to build a habitat for cats coming out of hoarding situations.

Although optimists believe that 2021 will bring forth changes in fundraising once a vaccine for the virus becomes widely available, the techniques used in 2020 may not have filled shelter and rescue bank accounts as full as many would have hoped. Long term impacts on staffing, operations, and missions are more likely to be felt well into the next two years.

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# Buddy, the Traveling Dog

by Buddy & Mark



Everyone I meet says I have seen more places in my life than they have in theirs. Maybe that's true.

Hi, my name is Buddy, and I am very excited to share my adventures with you. Although I am only 3 years old, my Mom and Dad have taken me all over the country. I am really fortunate to have traveled in many states from the west coast to the east coast.

It seems like I have seen a lot in only three years. I sure enjoy traveling to new places, and I've met so many new friends along the way. Mom and Dad always have a camera with them when we go traveling, and they take lots of photos of me.

We have a big 5th wheel trailer that we travel in a lot. My favorite thing is exploring and going to new places while sniffing the aroma in the air. It always seems to have a different smell. Sometimes it smells fishy if we are staying near a lake shore, and sometimes it smells like pine trees if we are camping in the forest.

Depending on the time of year it can be rather hot outside. After playing and hiking in the morning, I like to nap in the trailer with the air conditioning on during the afternoon. Sometimes it can be very cold outside, like the pictures of me in this article. If I go out in the cold and snow, I always wear my winter jacket to keep me warm.

My friends thought it was crazy to go to the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Bryce Canyon in Utah when a snowstorm was predicted. But that is exactly what we did, and boy was I ever happy to go. We left the trailer behind so we could stay in warm and cozy hotel rooms during this trip. Some places don't like dogs like me staying

in their rooms, but my mom did a lot of research and found were places that did allow us. The weather was perfect at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, and the scenery was stunning. There weren't the large crowds of people that can be there during the summer months, so it was really nice to have the area to myself.

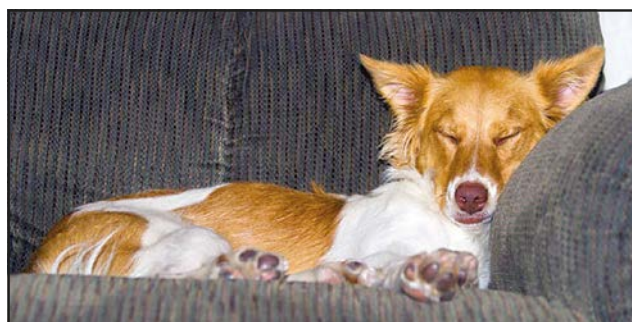
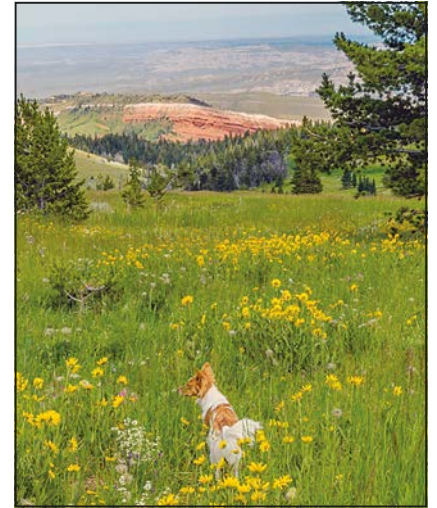
We did see a few other tourists in Bryce Canyon, but not many. It was fun to meet them and find out where they were from. The room we stayed in at Ruby's Inn was really nice, too.

Every morning I'd go out in the freshly fallen snow and go for a walk with my parents. It was a good way to wake up and stretch my legs while I looked for the perfect tree to do my business on. We only stayed for a few days, but it sure was fun.

Once we did our morning walk and had breakfast we would go out to the canyon's edge and hike a little bit while taking pictures of the canyon cliffs and trees all dusted with snow. It looks so different in the winter after a snowfall. It doesn't snow all that often, so we really had to watch the forecast and then call Ruby's Inn to see if it was a good snowfall. So, before driving all the way there, make sure you check to see if they've got any snow.

If you have the time, plan on stopping in Flagstaff, too. It is a good way to break up the trip and not drive too many miles at once. I sure had fun playing in the snow there also.

The next time you see a forecast for snow up north, hop up and down until your people are willing to take you on a road trip to the National Parks. Maybe we will meet on the trail. That would sure be nice.



BUDDY, THE TRAVELING DOG



# Rescue Tales

## Big Luck Club's 'Mommy Makeover'

This sweet Mamma was relinquished from a very rural area of the Navajo reservation. We don't know a lot about her but believe she was used to help keep livestock safe from predators. There's no reason to believe she'd ever seen a veterinarian, been vaccinated, and likely never brushed, bathed, or had her nails trimmed. She likely had spent her entire life outdoors and perennially pregnant.

In fact, she came to us very pregnant, giving birth to nine puppies just five days after arriving. It was mid-August and the temps were soaring, but she was happy to have her private space in the air conditioned house. She was bony, full of ticks, and could hardly keep her eyes open from the infections in them.



She was so perpetually hungry that she had the habit of immediately consuming her parasite-ridden feces. And although she arrived unafraid of people, she showed no sign that she had ever been directly touched, petted, or handled, or ever had a collar, harness, or leash on her.

Initially, and not surprisingly, she was food aggressive and wanted to get at every morsel she possibly could, including the meals fed to the house dogs.

She was fed small nutritious meals multiple times a day, given a vitamin and electrolyte supplement, probiotics, and daily salmon oil. In time, some raw food was introduced into her diet in the form of beef and eggs. She quickly ended the habit of eating her own feces. Eventually, in addition to her regular meals, she also was given a small bowl of Victor Yukon River Canine kibble throughout the day that she could choose to eat or allow it to sit there



untouched, helping to ingrain in her mind that she would never have to worry again about her next meal.

Mamma has raised her nine beautiful babies, and they are off starting their own lives. She has been bathed, her nails trimmed, and is now walking like a pro on a leash. She recently made her first visit to the veterinarian where she was spayed, microchipped, and received her rabies vaccine.

Because she likely spent much of her life in a malnourished state, she had a CBC panel completed to look for any liver or kidney issues, and thankfully nothing showed up of concern. She also was tested for heartworm and the notorious tick-borne diseases of Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma – all of which returned negative.

Today, she is no longer focused on eating, can go all day dismissing her kibble, and is unconcerned about what the other dogs are eating. She has gone from behaving like an old dog that struggles to move, to a youngster that loves to play. Her eyes now have a sparkle instead of infection, she is a healthy weight, and has an incredible wag in her tail. She easily loads herself in and out of the car for what used to be scary car rides. She is house trained and uses a doggy door.

She's come a long way in 10 weeks, and with some additional time to focus on exercise, socialization, great nutrition, and learning basic commands, Mamma will be shined-up appropriately to move on to the life, family, and continued great care she always wanted.

Thankfully, the forecast is calling for lots of blue skies for this pretty girl. When she's ready for adoption, she will be listed with PetFinder, AdoptAPet, and the Big Luck Club Facebook page. Interested parties can email us at [bigluckclub@gmail.com](mailto:bigluckclub@gmail.com) to describe why they would make a great forever family for her.

## Frosted Face, Heart of Gold

Our pets accompany us through happy times and tough times, but they count on us to provide what they most need—food, shelter, and love. In return they add an extra dimension to our lives that words can't really capture.

The toughest thing for a pet owner is, of course, outliving their animals, but the second most difficult would have to be relinquishing their furry best friends when they can no longer care for them.

Sheba and Suey arrived at the Humane Society of Sedona in August, and their surrender was a tear-jerker. As senior dogs go, they were an odd couple: a terrier mix who was towered over by his "sister"—a Lab and possibly Staffie mix.

Having been together for 10 years, they were inseparable but in need of a lot of medical care. They did not deserve to be overlooked because they were older



and might have further health challenges; all they wanted to do was give love and receive it.

In their minds, everyone that walked past, every car they saw gave them a glimmer of hope, but almost three months passed and you could tell they were starting to wonder when someone would make a commitment to them.

Fortunately, they finally got the opportunity to live out their Golden Years with a loving family who is appreciating the lack of effort they have to put into their new family members, and celebrating their frosted faces and hearts of gold.

## Daphne's Happily Ever After

Some of you may remember the horrific crash that occurred Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 3:51 am on Highway 169 near Dewey. The driver, tragically, was killed instantly. What was not reported is that she had a beautiful Welsh Terrier with her in the front seat that was ejected on impact.

Meet Daphne. Daphne miraculously survived the crash in the actual Jeep pictured here. Animal Control Officers brought her to us in shock and with a badly broken leg. The Yavapai Humane Society clinic staff immediately took her in and, when she was stable enough, Dr. Leo Egar from our Spay/Neuter & Wellness Clinic performed surgery to repair her broken right rear leg.

She recovered from surgery and started on her rehabilitation with daily exercises to help her strengthen her leg. Three months later she was fully recovered and was once again happily running around, playing, and ready to go home.

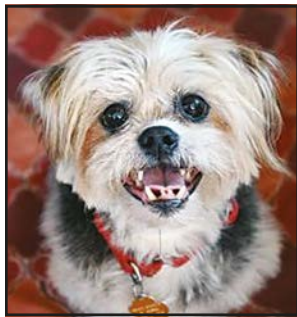


Gabe and Paul, two members of the YHS clinic staff, hit the road in our New Hope van with Daphne heading for Arkansas to return her to Casey, the daughter of the woman killed in the crash.

The reunion was absolutely beautiful, and Daphne is now living happily ever after with Casey and her family! Moments like this are made possible because of people like you who support Yavapai Humane Society and believe in our mission to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of companion animals.







**SUEY (Left) and SHEBA (Right):** A fabulous little 10-year-old yorkie and his sister, a medium-sized brindle lady. These two just adore each other. They are both the biggest snuggle bugs ever & super easy! They are available for foster or foster to adopt. Both are potty trained and use a doggie door.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
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**LLOYD:** A Jack Russell/Chihuahua cross. I'm a sweet little guy looking for my forever home. I like other dogs.  
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**FALCOR:** A sweet cattle dog mix. He's energetic, like other dogs, and can't wait to get a fun family to call his own!  
High Country Humane  
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**ILIAN:** A 1-year-old mixed breed male. Very sweet, learns quickly. He's quiet, loves people, and loves to play. He walks well on a leash.  
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**PEPPI:** A 5-year-old smooth-coated male Chihuahua. He is very affectionate and loves cuddles and lap time.  
Coconino Humane Association  
928-526-1076



**INDIANA BONES:** A 5-year-old pointer mix. He is short-haired, very active, and very smart. He loves people, but not keen on other dogs.  
Coconino Humane Association  
928-526-1076



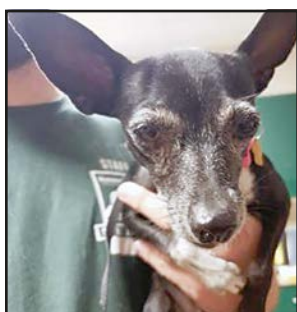
**COPPER:** A 6-year-old Bloodhound/German Shepherd mix. He's big, goofy, affectionate, and a bit drooly as bloodhounds often are. He is very gentle.  
Coconino Humane Association  
928-526-1076



**TUESDAY:** A 2-year-old Australian Shepherd mix. She is very sweet and playful. She is very affectionate, but a bit shy at first.  
Coconino Humane Association  
928-526-1076



**TERI:** A 2-year-old chocolate Australian Cattle Dog mix. She's super sweet & just adores people. Not so crazy about some dogs, though.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
928-282-4679



**RAVEN:** A tiny 6-year-old Chihuahua mix. She is so sweet but shy. It will take a little time for her to trust again.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
928-282-4679



**RITA:** A 1-year-old lab mix with a stunning red-gold color. She is very smart and very affectionate.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
928-282-4679



**CASPER:** A tiny 5-year-old Chihuahua boy who is only about 9 pounds. He is so sweet and loves to cuddle in laps.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
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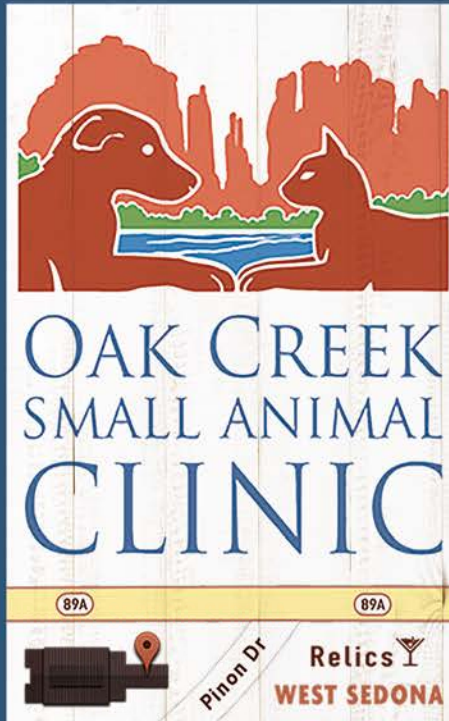


**COCO:** An itty-bitty 8-pound Chihuahua female. She is so sweet, loves people, loves being held and loves sitting in laps!  
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**BAGBY (Left) and VIOLET (Right):** Bagby is a big black panther kitty who really loves his sister Violet, a beautiful tortoiseshell. They are both 9 years old and really need to stay together. They are both kind, curious and affectionate. They would love to snuggle with you.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
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**CINNABUN:** A 6-year-old silver tabby who is one handsome dude! He is dignified, but affectionate and loves attention. He's looking for someone to hang out with.  
High Country Humane  
928-526-0742



**ATHENA:** A beautiful brown tabby longhair. She is 2 years old and quite regal. She's also affectionate and loves company.  
Coconino Humane Association  
928-526-1076



**PENELOPE:** Sweet & Chunky senior kitty alert! She is 7 years old and very talkative with a big ole purr machine. She is affectionate and cuddly.  
High Country Humane  
928-526-0742



**CORIN:** A parlor panther for your home! Corin is 5 months old with the most compelling copper-gold eyes. She's sweet, funny, and loving.  
Coconino Humane Association  
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**ALBUS:** A most handsome 4-month-old fellow who looks very much like a Ragdoll cat. He is a bit shy but very sweet once he trusts you.  
High Country Humane  
928-526-0742



**BRANDY:** A small and dainty orange and white longhaired female. She is 7 months old and is quite charming. She loves people and cuddles!  
Coconino Humane Association  
928-526-1076



**CALLIE:** A 5-month-old tortoiseshell female with the most amazing gold eyes. She is gentle, quiet, and loves attention.  
High Country Humane  
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**MISSY:** A beautiful calico lady, surrendered due to owner illness. She is very sad, but super sweet & loving. Will ask for pets and cuddles.  
Humane Society of Sedona  
928-282-4679



**SOPRANO:** A 5-month-old orange tabby shorthair. She's female, uncommon for red kitties, so that makes her extra special. She is small, sweet, and affectionate. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



**ESME:** A 1-year-old gorgeous dilute tortoiseshell female. She is tiny and super sweet, and she loves attention and laps.  
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# Quick Tips from a Pet Photographer

Story and Photos by Kristy Meyers

After many months of sheltering in place, pet parents across the nation were looking for fun and creative outlets. Throughout the late months of the summer, social media feeds began filling with close-up shots of furry family members. We continue to see the rising trend of animal Instagram accounts and selfies with pets, it is important to consider the basics of Pet photography. Pets are a unique subject with even more unique challenges. With the upcoming Flagstaff Sedona Dog cover contest, here are a few helpful tips for any pet parent from your friendly neighborhood pet and portrait artist.

### Get on their Level:

The best images are often shot from their eye level or below. This helps the animal to feel more at ease and enables us to capture the world the way they see it. It also draws the viewer in and humanizes the pet in the picture.

**Focus on the Eyes:** An animal's eyes are particularly expressive. For

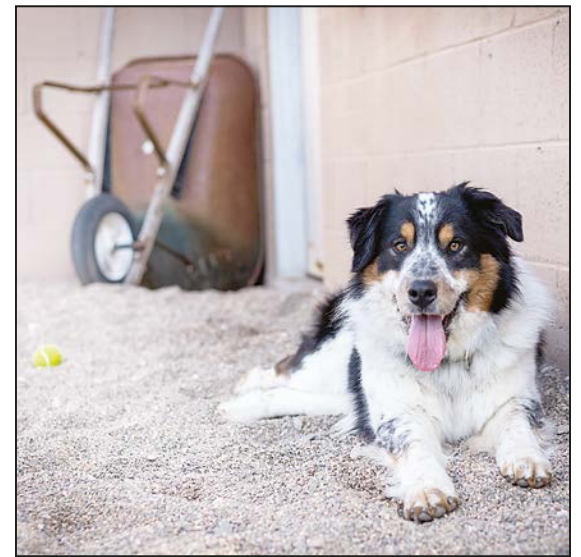


the most engaging pictures, the focus should be on the eyes and they should be crisp, clear, and captivating. If you are having a hard time getting an animal to look at you it is never a bad idea to make strange noises or get their attention with a toy or treat.

**Pay your Model Well:** An abundance of small treats can help a pet enjoy the session, stay engaged with the camera, and even look forward to other times posing for a picture. Be prepared to reward your dog with frequent treats and plenty of praise. Keep your pets interested in the camera and make sure they have as much fun as you!

**Stay Patient & Playful:** Pet photography requires a lot of patience. Avoid reacting to bad behavior, and always remember that animals are sensitive to our emotional energy. If the photographer is impatient or stressed, the animal can quickly become agitated as well. The resulting flattened ears, or tucked tails do not make for a picture-perfect image. Remember to breathe and have fun with your pup. When in doubt, you can always put the camera away and just cuddle or play for now.

These are just a few easy strategies to take your pictures from good to great; you



do not have to be professional to create pizzazz. Above all else take your time and enjoy this time with your pets. Take more pictures than you think you will need, and then go through the extras later. Take a break or take a breath whenever you need it. Remember, this is just one more activity to celebrate and spend time with your furry family member! As such, it should be a great time for all! I can't wait to see what you create!

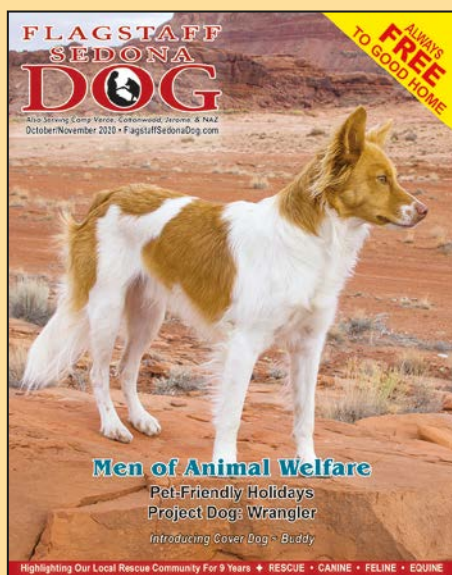
*Kristy Meyers is the owner and photographer for Penny Lane Photography. Visit her at pennylanephotographyaz.com.*

## COVER DOG CONTEST



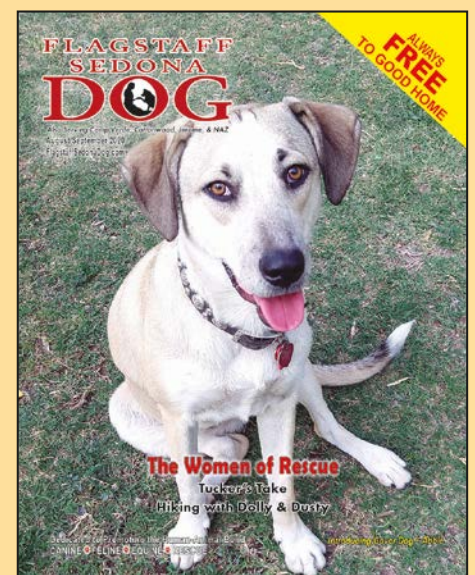
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2. Use the subject line: Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Cover Dog.
3. In the body of your email, include your dog's name and age; your address, phone number, and preferred email address.
4. For your entry to be considered for the February/March 2021 edition of Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine, we need to receive your entry by 11:59 pm on December 31, 2020.





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# Hiking with Annie – Best Friends Animal Sanctuary

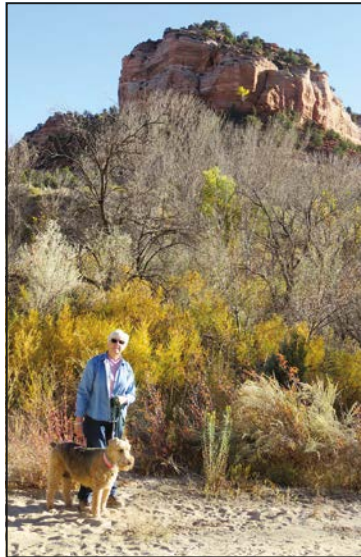
Story & Photos by Melissa Bowersock

Most of us who live in America's Southwest love the mystique: the deserts high and low, the dry air, the colorful and ever-changing scenery, the amazing sunsets... I could go on, but you know what I mean. So when the summer of 2020 became too brutal to bear with temperatures in the Verde Valley that rivaled Phoenix, it was time to get to higher and more northerly terrain. To that end, I recently moved—not out of the Southwest, but to Kanab, Utah.

Kanab sits at 5,000 feet, about the same as Prescott, and has a backdrop of stunning red rocks very much like Sedona. In and of itself, Kanab is a delightful small town, but it is also a gateway to some of the prize national parks of the Southwest. Zion National Park is only 30 minutes away; Bryce is 90 minutes, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is also 90 minutes. Utah also boasts Grand Staircase of the Escalante, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Arches. I don't think there are too many states that can compare to the dramatic beauty here.

When my husband and I decided to move, it was not only our own comfort that we were thinking of. Our Airedale, Annie, runs hot (as has every Airedale we've ever had), and the summer in the Verde Valley was difficult for her. She would enjoy the cooler mornings outside until about 9am, then come inside and flop down on the cool tile in the bathroom for the rest of the day. No amount of pleading would get her outside until the sun had set and the temps had dropped (ha!) to at least 90. We knew she would enjoy the cooler temps in Kanab as much as, or more than, we would. And we were right. She spends the majority of her time outside in the shade, watching for rabbits or deer, both of which frequent our yard from time to time. She's happier, more energetic, and goes crazy for walks.

Just about 5 miles north of Kanab is another hidden gem, but not a national park. It's Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a no-kill preserve located on 3,700 acres (yes, you read that right) in a beautiful canyon of red rocks, green trees, and gentle breezes. Best Friends houses dogs and cats, of course, but also pigs, rabbits, goats, horses, and any other orphaned animal that comes their way. The animals are available for adoption, but if they



*On the Kanab Trail with author.*

aren't taken, they spend the rest of their lives right there, in comfort and dignity.

Because Best Friends encompasses such extensive acreage, they have multiple places of interest. Along with all their facilities accessible via tour, there are also hiking trails and picnic areas. One such trail is the Water Canyon trail, which descends down into the canyon to the banks of Kanab Creek. Recently we took Annie there.

The trail winds around a bit, looping down to the bottom of the canyon and the creek. There are plenty of cottonwood trees (now blazing in yellow and gold), and a thick growth of cattails and other water-loving plants along the creek's shores. Because the creek floods periodically, sometimes catastrophically, there is no development there, so other than the narrow trails, the canyon is wild and untamed.

Annie had a field day with all the unfamiliar sights and smells. We saw plenty of deer tracks along the sandy trail, while birds flew and sang amid the trees and we could hear small scufflings beneath the brush. The place abounds with rabbits, with skunks and raccoons making rarer appearances. We even saw some wild turkeys! Annie went nuts over them, whining and barking. I'm not sure what she thought she'd do if she caught one, but she didn't get to find out.

Interestingly enough, we've heard that mountain lions have been seen around the



*Annie in Kanab Creek.*

creek. It's been incredibly dry in the Southwest these last two years, so it makes sense that even cougars have to seek out water, even if it's close to people. The densely overgrown canyon is a perfect place for the big cats, since they hunt by ambush and there are plenty of places to hide. We kept a good lookout, but didn't see any evidence of them, thankfully.

The creek itself is probably pretty cold; Annie went out wading a little, but didn't seem inclined to swim in the deeper areas. The shoreline is pretty well choked with brush, so even getting to the deeper channel would be difficult. On hot summer days, she might try it, but in fall with temps in the 40s, she was just as happy to stay mostly dry.

After our hike, we took Annie to the Welcome Center of Best Friends, which offers a lovely patio area, a store, and information about the place and access to the tour. Pets are welcome so long as they are on leash, and now during the pandemic, masks for humans are required. There are plenty of beautiful places throughout Best Friends. There is a labyrinth that you can walk and perhaps meditate on peace and harmony in this current polarized world. There is also an extensive pet cemetery, which is beautiful but heart-wrenching.

The first time we walked through, seeing all the graves with the dedications, seeing collars left on the corners of gravestones made me choke up. Of course, loving Annie as I do, I can imagine the pain of losing her as so many other pets have been lost. It's a place of deep sadness but incredible gratitude.

How lucky are we that we have these loving animals in our lives? And how lucky are we to have a place like Best Friends?



*The Best Friends patio.*



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# Chase's Corner

By Chase & Jan



Then we practiced retrieving the glove. As I got out to that one, I saw that it had *DIRT* on it. I certainly wasn't going to pick up that dirty thing and put it in *MY* mouth! Maybe I should think about practicing and showing obedience indoors.

As winter comes, I hope it snows so we can all have a good time playing and running in it. I will consult my doggie almanac and keep you posted. Until the next issue. Stay safe....

Yippee! It's the holidays and my favorite time of year. We get to grow a live tree in our living room and then decorate it with all kinds of dog ornaments that I have picked out for it. And, I have my very own stocking with my name on it that my friends Cassidy and Tyra gave to me. Somehow, it gets filled with all kinds of goodies on Christmas morning. I always seem to have more presents under the tree than my mom does! Maybe that's because I am famous.

Now back to the serious matter of obe-

dience training. In my last column I said that I had been practicing in my air-conditioned Arizona room, but now that it's cooler, I have to practice outdoors. And that brings a whole new set of problems!

We go out in the morning when there is still dew on the grass, and my mom throws the dumbbell and then tells me to "fetch it." I run out to it, see that it is wet and think, "No way!" I stop, turn around, and tell her to bring a towel and dry this thing off. Then I'm happy to pick it up and carry it back to her.

Sometimes it also has grass on it, and if you have ever had grass in your mouth, you know what I mean. After I give it to her, I have to spit and sputter and shake my head to let her know that was icky.



**Have a Warm & Fuzzy Christmas!**

CHASE'S CORNER

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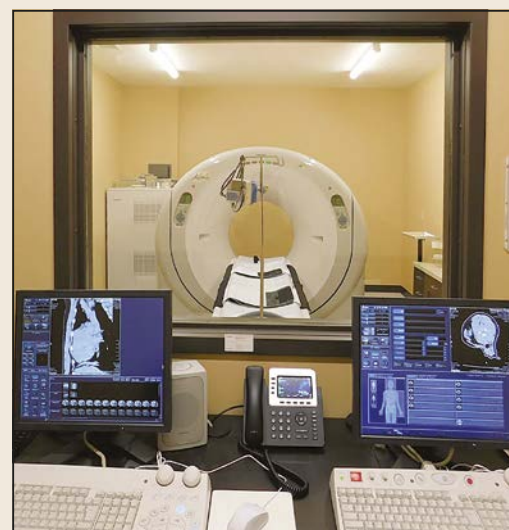
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- We'd like to introduce our Technician Manager, Lauren Padilla! Lauren joined the VESCONA family in July of 2020. She is originally from California and graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelors in Animal Science with a specialization in Equine Science. She obtained her RVT license and has spent most of her career working in neurology and emergency veterinary medicine. In her free time Lauren enjoys road cycling, hiking and backpacking. She has three pets, a cat named Vino and two dogs – Aspen and Latte. Lauren is also working towards her dream of becoming a Veterinarian.
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