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FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

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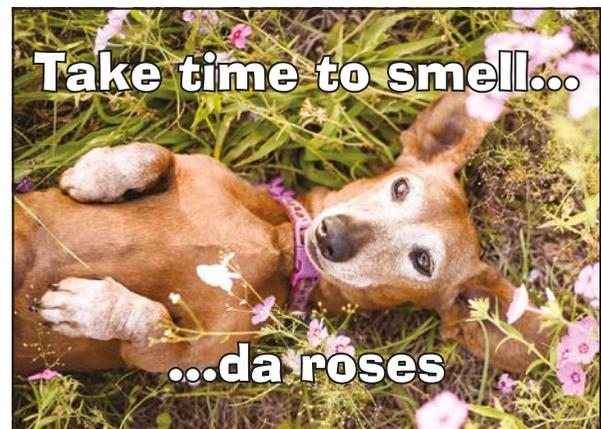
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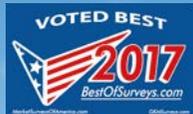
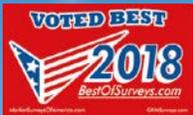
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Tucker's Take

Cutting the Rug

Dancing. Yes, that odd two-legged behavior that leaves us on four legs mystified. I'm told rhythm is the most important aspect to the movements of limbs and torso, if done successfully.

I've been trying to figure out where rhythm applies in my life. I do have my stomp dance, but I'm not sure I do it rhythmically. I suppose our tail-wagging is a form of rhythm, and our running at a full gallop might qualify, but we don't rely on music, (another mystery to dogs).

Dad says that dancing is the sculpting of the air around the dancer. He said that when he realized that, it changed how he looked at dancing. It's probably a good thing that he looks at dancing rather than participating. More on that later.

Now our Mom, she is a dancer. When she breaks out to a song, Keira and I get excited and try to figure out how to participate. When our Mom dances, it feels like play to us. I usually come running and stand on my hind legs and have her catch my front paws. She thinks I want to dance with her from that position, but I'm actually trying to get her down to our level and play from that angle.

Keira in her excitement will try to come in for the block, (to keep me from Mom), or throw herself on the floor and do her own "full-size-Golden-ecstatic-wiggle" on the carpet. When Mom dances, it's a happy event that lights up the house. Hazel, my other pack-sister usually just watches from the couch. I think she enjoys it, but stays aloof for a reason, (more on that later).

The integral part for two-leggeds is of course, the music. Mom seems to prefer the bouncy fast songs, and Dad, well, we're not exactly sure what his favorite kind of music is as he always pulls out something we haven't heard before. Hazel has a vast experience with Dad's taste in music. She got to hear endless hours of it in the big truck when they were on the road.

Hazel told me that when they were fostering puppies for service dogs, Dad had to figure out what music would calm them down and induce a good, long, puppy nap. For Lucy,

it was the Celtic stylings of Dougie MacLean. When Butter came along, it took Dad a bit to find her music. Of all things it was Reggae music that "soothed the savage (and very busy) breast" and sent her off to dreamland.

For Sora, she had varied taste. I was here for her, and I remember she seemed to prefer some of Dad's music that doesn't sit with some folks. So there was a lot of "mixes" and Spotify, (will they ever get around to making Barkify?).

So I brought all this up because "dancing" came up the other day as the center of slight incident we had the other morning. Mom went out on errands and Dad had "galley" duty and decided to cue up some vintage Shawn Phillips to brighten up the chores.

When the song "The Only Logical Conclusion/Get Up off Your A** and Dance" came up, so did the volume, and so did the hands covered in long rubber gloves as they rose into the air. What followed was a scene I cannot unsee. Dad began moving in a very strange way, not like Mom at all. Hazel, previously asleep from her post on the couch was up on her feet and shot a concerned whine in my direction. Keira was astride me and was wagging so hard it pulled her hind quarters from side to side. Dad was completely oblivious to us and started increasing the speed of his wriggling. Hazel shouted with a bark to me that she was going to the bathroom laundry basket to get a sock and when she came back, I was to take Dad out at the knees and keep him busy on the ground. I shot back with a question as to the purpose of the sock and why on this green earth would I ever have to take Dad out at the knees.

What followed was a heated argument between Hazel and Keira. Hazel was convinced that Dad was having a "session" and might swallow his teeth. Keira jumped in to say it was "seizure", not "session", and the sock would be useless because of the "Dogumentary".

This went on for some minutes until I had to tell them to both shut up. I walked into



the kitchen, (still at a safe distance), and calmly sniffed at the commotion unfolding before me. I neither sensed anxiety, or distress.

Keira barked out that Dad might be doing the Hokey Pokey, but Hazel was more of the opinion it was the Herky Jerky and paddled off to get a sock.

Dad continued on while I turned my head to Keira. I asked her about this "Dogumentary" she mentioned.

"American Bandstand, we watched a Dogumentary about a show with music and people that can dance like Mom."

"So, you're saying Dad is imitating what you saw last night."

"Well, sort of, he's appears to be trying to do very modified version of the Alligator right now, I think...oh wait, now it's the Bat-tusi, kind of."

Hazel appeared with a fluze full of sock. I turned back and sniffed at Dad one more time and came to the conclusion that this was just an odd, (very odd), form of wagging and that we would all be OK.

Dad's center of gravity seem to be giving him some resistance and eventually seemed to be the cause of the most spastic of displays. For a second there, I wondered if Hazel's sock would be needed.

Dad, suddenly aware of our presence immediately stopped the last of the tremors and keyed into the lone sock in the middle of the carpet. Hazel, back on the couch, did her best, (and succeeded), to appear "innocent as the day is long". This caused Dad to look down at Keira and begin his lecture and walking Keira down the hall with the purloined sock in his hand to show her where they're supposed to go and to not take things out of the laundry basket and...to leave shoes alone...blah, blah, blah.

I laid back down on the carpet waiting for their return and thanked Providence that everything was back to normal. For now.

~Tucker Oso

TUCKER'S TAKE



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4. For your entry to be considered for the April/May 2021 edition of Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine, we need to receive your entry by 11:59 pm on February 28, 2021.



Honey, Our Cover Dog

Hello New People!

Excuse me while I jump up on you to greet you with my tail wagging. I'm still learning to stay down when I'm excited.

My name is Honey, and my adventure began on April 30, 2020 in Tuba City. I was born a stray pup with microphthalmia or a micro-eye, causing blindness in my right eye, but don't worry, I can still zoom.



I was rescued by the Coconino Humane Association in Flagstaff, who was generous enough to take me to the Aspen Veterinary Clinic. There I had surgery to have my micro-eye removed and replaced with a permanent wink.



Foster homes are fun; mine had many dogs and other animals to play with. My foster family found me a dad and permanent home to call my own, so I didn't have to go back to Coconino Humane.

I've had several names before, but I confirmed my new name after trying a honeybee for taste on my first day at my new home. Took a stinger to the tongue and gave my dad quite the scare, but the world is full of things I want to investigate.

I have an older roommate at my new home, and she's helping me learn the ropes – like sticking around when we go hiking in the forest. Camping sure gets me excited, especially hearing all the strangely familiar sounds at night (coyotes).



I love to run off-trail and sniff for wild animals like deer and rabbits, or trout when we go fishing at any of the beautiful creeks that I've visited in Arizona.



I come when I'm called and get delicious Blue Wilderness treats that taste like the animals I'm chasing.

At the end of every day, I get to play with, chase, or tug on one of my many chew toys so I don't chew on something I shouldn't. Sometimes my dad hides deer antlers around the house so I can practice finding sheds for our next adventure. I know I'm loved because I get to jump up on the bed and have my tummy rubbed while I fall asleep and dream of what tomorrow will bring.

Thank you very much to the Coconino Humane Association, Aspen Veterinary Clinic, and the wonderful family who fostered me! It's a dog's life for me.

~Honey

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to submit@reddogpublishing.net

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August/September	July 1
October/November	September 1
December/January	November 1
February/March	January 1

HONEY, OUR COVER DOG

Emma-Bear's Rescue Journey

By Sarah Layton Wallace. Photos courtesy of Amanda Norton.



Emma-Bear was found wandering alone in a park in Tucson last fall. She was obese, her fur was thin and in spots missing altogether. There were lumps at the base of her tail, on her mammary glands and her back, and we found a broad mass under the surface of the skin on her chest. Her frosted-white face over chocolate fur hinted at the many years she had lived, but without a microchip or identification tags, nobody knew anything more about her.

The Good Samaritans who found her posted on social media and filed a found report with the shelter hoping to find an owner. When none came forward, they contacted local rescues to see who could help. With Tucson rescues full, they turned again to social media to find a rescue that could take her

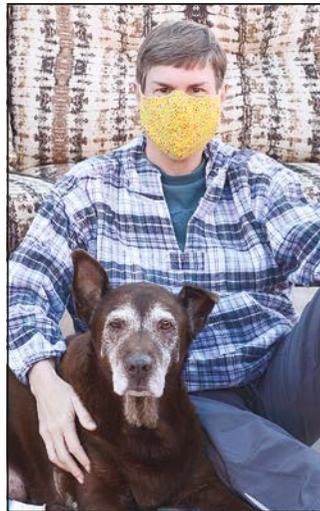
and give her the veterinary care she needed.

Yavapai Humane Trappers Animal Search and Rescue (YHT), a 501c3 based out of the Prescott area, sent transporters to Tucson. They named her Emma. A wellness check revealed low thyroid which partly explained her large size and damaged skin and fur. They also determined that Emma was not spayed.

Full body x-rays showed that cancer had metastasized to her spleen and lungs; with her age and condition, surgery was not an option. She was prescribed a twice-daily thyroid medication and joined YHT's Forever Foster program for animals that are not adoptable due to health challenges that require ongoing and potentially expensive vet care. Emma needed a foster home comfortable with providing love and hospice care for whatever time she had left, which the veterinarians estimated was between four weeks and six months.

Upon seeing Emma's photo and learning of her rescue, I con-

tacted YHT founder Katrina Karr and volunteered to be Emma's forever foster mom. My husband and I had provided a life-long home to a pair of chocolate female Labrador Retrievers in the past and recently fostered many Labs for Lab Rescue; I thought I had the right experience to help this ailing old lady in her remaining days. I filled out a foster application and a local YHT volunteer came to my home to conduct a home check.



After meeting Emma in Prescott, my husband and I took her home to Sedona. She weighed 95 pounds and had a hard time getting up from a laying position and squatting to pee.

At first she would not eat, which can be typical of a dog in transition. However, we soon concluded that Emma may have been fed people-food in the past since she was interested in our meals but walked away from kibble. We fed her three small meals a day, mostly freshly chopped vegetables along with some protein. In time we switched from meats to a small portion of kibble and some canned dog stew

to accompany her vegetables, which is what she eats today.

For exercise, we walk Emma on the local golf-course cart path and around the neighborhood where she is a favorite. She regularly greets every human and dog that wants to greet her. As the excess weight melted away, Emma walked farther and got around easier. She now weighs 70 pounds.

In her four months with us, Emma has thrived. As our forever foster dog, she receives our daily love and care. She also gives love, happiness and hope to all who meet her in person.

Through her Facebook page called Emma-Bear's Rescue Journey, she teaches and inspires hundreds more to care about and understand the needs of rescue animals. That is Emma-Bear's purpose and perhaps why she still is with us today, on her beautiful rescue journey.



Rescue Resources

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



ANIMAL GUARDIAN NETWORK HEALING RIVER RANCH 2564 N Arena Del Loma, Camp Verde (623) 780-1604, animalguardiannetwork.org	BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Native American Reservation Animals blackhathumane@gmail.com (928) 245-3890	HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff (928) 526-0742, highcountryhumane.org	PETS RETURN HOME petsreturnhome.org info@petsreturnhome.org
ARK CAT SANCTUARY (928) 635-5909, arkcatsanctuary.org	BLUE MOON RESCUE & SANCTUARY 1851 E Perkinsville Rd, Chino Valley (928) 925-7724, bluemoonrescue.org	HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA 605 W. Wilson Ct, Payson (928) 474-5590, HumaneSocietyCentralAZ.org	TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY (928) 793-2364, tubacityhumanesociety.org
BETHANY'S GAIT RANCH (928) 499-9442, Prescott	CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY Daytime (928) 925-1926, Prescott Valley	HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA 2115 Shelby Dr (928) 282-4679 humanesocietyofsedona.org	VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood (928) 634-7387 VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org
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Beyond Search & Rescue

By Jacqueline Vaughn

You've seen their photos attached to street signs, bulletin boards, and handmade signs. Another dog or cat is lost in someone's neighborhood. Many of them do make their way back to their owners, but have you ever wondered how the process of finding and reuniting them works?

"Rescue, Foster, Adopt" is the mantra of animal welfare groups, who repeat these three words so often they are imprinted on their volunteers' brains, it seems. But there are several groups and individuals in Northern Arizona that go beyond the mantra to include activities like trapping, search and rescue, and even more by helping to support the communities they serve.

Central Arizona Animal Search and Rescue (CAASR), based in the Camp Verde/Rimrock area, epitomizes how non-profits can evolve to focus on a specific service area. The organization, led by founder Mitzie Christian, started about 12 years ago with the purpose of reuniting lost animals and their owners.

From searching, rescuing, and trapping animals in the Verde Valley area and elsewhere, the group now has an air-conditioned and heated building with six kennels, an outside play yard for animals, outside kennels, agility equipment, and plastic pools for cooling off during the warm Arizona summer. Over time, CAASR began to grow to deal with all the "found" animals that needed to be rescued and became the foundation for training more volunteers seeking to learn the tricks of the search and rescue trade.

Some of those volunteers then founded Northern Arizona Animal Search and Rescue (NAASR) to serve the region surrounding the Flagstaff area. They started from an October 2016 effort led by volunteer Teresa Taggart to help find Vallie, a large brown and white female Boxer that went missing near Flagstaff after a car accident on Interstate 17 that killed her young owner.

Volunteers and the family of the dog's owner thought at first that she might have been picked up by a driver who saw her running down the interstate or nearby, and efforts were expanded to check shelters outside the area in case she had been dropped off by a Good Samaritan.



Vallie

The group, Bring Vallie Home, started a Facebook page for tips and ideas, including one theory that she had been stolen by someone familiar with the Kachina Village area where she was sighted.

A large reward was offered for information, trail cameras and feeding stations were set

up, and a psychic as well as an animal communicator from the United Kingdom were consulted. But even though she was micro-chipped and there were posters put up everywhere nearby, she still has not been found. The Facebook page remains live, and others who have lost animals post there, as well as stories of animals reunited with their owners after years of searching.

Taggart started NAASR using her training from CAASR, and like that group, their work has expanded far more than even she perhaps could have envisioned. The group still has a substantial commitment to search and rescue for lost dogs, and they continue to keep looking for an animal until the owner tells them to stop, she says. "We do not have a deadline, and none of us have private lives any more. We stop what we're doing at the drop of a hat, and we're prepared to camp out and spend the night outdoors when we need to do so."

She adds that "our volunteers are crazy." They receive on the job training, and some dogs require weeks before they are trapped and found. They rely upon donations to purchase the traps and other equipment needed, and adoption fees help offset some of their costs.

Unlike CAASR, which has a facility of its own, NAASR relies on foster homes and animal shelters and veterinarians in the area when animals are initially rescued. The rescue part can be daunting in areas like the Navajo Nation, where last year a drone was used to help guide a curious puppy back to the area where searchers were waiting.

The search and rescue groups are unusual in the animal welfare world because they often cooperate rather than compete with one another. The drama is in finding an animal. Recently, for example, Patty Aiken of CAASR helped load up her car to take supplies that NAASR had purchased out to the Navajo Nation, joining volunteers from the Coconino Humane Association and friends of Taggart.

Despite its name, another local group, Yavapai Humane Trappers Animal Search and Rescue (known as YHT), has volunteers from throughout northern Arizona, and its efforts cover territory ranging from Ash Fork and Chino Valley to Kayenta and Chinle on the Navajo Nation.

The group often finds litters of puppies abandoned in culverts or alongside the roadway, and



Yavapai Humane Trappers volunteer and trap.

dispatches its volunteers to check out stray animals reported to the group. Recently, they responded to a homeless man and his dog and helped find transportation, food, and supplies for him—a project slightly different from the typical search and rescue event.



Kayenta puppies.

Less visible but equally active and critically important are "independent" search and rescuers and trappers like Kirk Landauer. He and several other local residents prefer to work on their own, using their skills and time to stake out the area where a pet was last seen, often camping out, staying in their vehicles for hours, or driving repeatedly through a neighborhood.



Kirk Landauer

Originally from Maryland, Landauer grew up in the rural countryside where "everyone had critters and their critters were constantly getting lost," he says. Many residents owned dogs for hunting, and it was typical for a dog to

run fast and far, getting lost, and then eventually trapped.

He also worked for awhile with the TNR (trap, neuter, return) of feral cats. Later in life, he often came to Sedona and visited his family in Arizona where they had retired, becoming a full time resident in 2013. He now volunteers at the Humane Society of Sedona three days a week, and the rest of his life is focused on search and rescue.

Independent rescuers pay for their own fuel and other vehicle costs, buy traps and field cameras, and are generally available 24/7 when they hear an animal has gone missing.

"We do our own thing," he says, "I'm a maniac when it comes to a missing dog. I know what it's like to lose a dog, and I will do anything to try to find one. Last year, he continued to look for a Chihuahua named Enzo that went missing in West Sedona, long after other rescuers had given up on finding him. The dog was never recovered.

He was also a key player in finding Bonny, a dog that ran from her owners in the Kachi-

na neighborhood of Sedona. “She was very elusive,” Landauer says, despite sightings over the course of 30 days before she was trapped.

Some equipment was stolen while rescuers attempted to find Bonny, and a local resident set up a Go Fund Me page to replace the traps and cameras that were taken and buy new equipment.

Landauer often accompanies some of the women who volunteer as an added element of protection when they are searching, and notes that search and rescue is not without costs. He spends an average of \$20 a day on gasoline while searching; the tires on his vehicle and his brakes need to be replaced.

He speaks of the emotions that can accompany this type of volunteer effort. “I try not to get too depressed about humanity. You gotta do what you can. I enjoy helping those that can’t help themselves, and not focus on the people whose intentions are not always good ones.”

Sometimes the rewards are almost immediate, as was the case with a black dog seen wandering near a local Sedona restaurant wearing a collar and trailing a broken leash. Landauer was able to capture the dog, which was immediately reunited with its owner.

What the groups and individuals have in common is a desire to go beyond just rescuing animals but also helping the communities they serve. NAASR has, for instance, been successful in building relationships with the Navajo people who have been profoundly affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. Their volunteers frequently deliver supplies ranging from food to surgical masks, cleaning supplies, pet food, and other items to families they have gotten to know while looking for missing dogs on the reservation.



Northern Arizona Animal Search and Rescue supplies.

Taggart notes that many people are no longer working, or don’t have the \$25 it would take to drive to Flagstaff to go shopping. Many others have no transport at all, and rely on chapter houses or relatives to keep them supplied with groceries. NAASR considers these trips equally important as the search and rescue activities it also conducts. “We can’t judge what other people do with their animals based on our own lifestyle,” she says. “We operate in a ‘no-judgment zone.’”

A Rez Rescue Tale: Sandy

By Jacqueline Vaughn

Can a one-eyed dog from Gallup, New Mexico find happiness in Cottonwood, Arizona?

Ruth and Jeff Gass respond with a resounding YES based on their experience with the dog they adopted from the Prescott-based rescue group, United Animal Friends, in February 2019.

Their dog, Spanky, had passed in 2018, and after six months, the couple decided that it was time for another canine in their household. They did not have children and missed having a dog at home.

They decided to check out a dog named Lady who they had seen on the Internet. They then met her in person at an adoption event at the Prescott Petco store, where they also talked with Lady’s foster mom, Sumiko. That was all it took to finalize their decision to adopt the Lady. They had no hesitation about adopting a dog with one eye.

Lady’s story made them fall in love with her, they say. She had been picked up on December 21, 2018 by a Gallup/McKinley County Animal Control officer on the Navajo Nation adjoining Gallup. Sadly, this part of New Mexico is often a dumping ground for unwanted dogs and their puppies.

This rez dog had two puppies with her, and she was missing an eye. One puppy was adopted immediately, and United Animal Friends rescued the other puppy and



Lady as part of the rescue partnership the group has with the Gallup shelter. Once with the rescue, she was spayed and had surgery to close her injured left eye.

“We named her Sandy because she looked like Little Orphan Annie’s dog, and she, too, had a hard knock life. We were determined to give her a happy life after her hard luck start. We knew that dogs, unlike humans, never feel sorry for themselves and adapt much better to any infirmities,” they say. The Cottonwood couple brought her home and began to make her a part of their lives.

Like many new adoptees, at first Sandy was shy when meeting new people, and also nervous about sudden movements or noises. The Gass family says that she loved her toys, but didn’t like to have things thrown.

She loved to walk at the lake near their home, but did not like fishing poles or water. They say that she was quirky about walking on a leash if she perceived a threat of some kind, and she could jump in the opposite direction, throwing the dog walker off balance.

Now, Sandy has a newfound sense of confidence and is much calmer. They describe her as a cuddler who enjoys car rides and runs to the door to greet a visitor. “People say that she was lucky that we adopted her. We feel that WE are the lucky ones. She is an indispensable companion and a one-of-a-kind one-eyed dog.”



DAVID A. KOVALIK, DVM

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Jingles was picked up, along with her siblings, before Christmas as a stray in a remote area near Pinon on the Navajo reservation. The group had been reported by area residents as dumped and were roaming in search of food.

Jingles is around seven months old, and when she was picked up her left hind leg was completely non-weight bearing. She was taken to the vet to get x-rays and it was discovered she had multiple fractures to her leg.

Was she hit by a car? Had she been caught in a steel leg trap? Who knows. Amputation was discussed as a logical option, but she was taken home to a warm bed, plenty of nutritious food, a bone-strengthening supplement, lots of TLC, and was monitored closely.

We are thrilled to report that she is now ambulating with her broken leg extraordinarily well – at times it's even difficult to notice that anything is wrong. There's real hope that she can recover nearly 100% but she'll be getting additional evaluations in the meantime.

She began her parvo/distemper vaccines at pick-up and will be spayed,



microchipped, and have her rabies completed by the time this is published.

Now the fun part. Jingles loves to engage, loves her new animal friends, is very attentive, and already has learned the commands of sit, down, stay, and come, just by watching the other dogs. She quickly learned how to use the doggie door and is house-broken. She LOVES to give kisses and deals with baths without a struggle. Recently she has begun to jump into the Jeep unassisted, and we don't need to mention she is, of course, adorably cute.

We are very grateful to the Yavapai Humane Society's New Hope program for accepting Jingles' gorgeous siblings into their program and getting these kids who had little hope into great homes.

Jingle will be posted on Adoptapet, Petfinder, and the Big Luck Club facebook page when she's available for adoption. You can also make inquiries to bigluckclub@gmail.com.

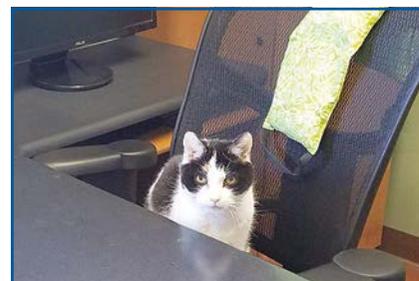


The Space Between Us

A year ago, we had no idea how life would change so dramatically for all of us. Even the animals at the Humane Society of Sedona could tell something was different. There were so few visitors, it was almost – dare they think it – quiet! A cat nap was not out of the question as potential adopters were asked to make appointments to ensure safety was a priority.

As the pandemic became a daily reality, it was obvious we had to change how we worked and communicated with each other, as we had divided into two teams to ensure the Shelter could remain open if any staff became ill.

Conference calls became Zoom calls and webinars to teach us how to pivot to this new way to meet. Our largest



fundraiser, the Pet Lovers' Gala and Auction, went virtual – a whole new approach, but we were part of thousands of non-profits across the country who were "building the airplane before we flew it."

Each day was an opportunity to create new solutions using technology to support the animals. We changed our in-person Board meetings and training for staff and volunteers to online. We're excited now to be working on a virtual Kids 'n' Kritters Camp, with the dates to be announced soon!

Whether we're working from home miles apart, or at the Shelter staying six feet apart, technology will inevitably continue to help us reduce the space between us while we help bring animals closer to finding their forever families.



Central Arizona Animal Search and Rescue

We were asked to rescue a sweet dog named Herbie who was rescued from the streets of Lebanon. He was saved from brutal death on the streets there by a kind lady but she needed to get him safe so she could move on to another country. So we said yes and Herbie was fully vetted there a special crate was built and we paid the \$3600 for his ticket and here he is, safe in the us with CAASR.



He flew 19 hours for freedom. He is now living with his foster parents in Williams and doing awesome.

He is a livestock guard dog who was never used for that so he has made an awesome house dog and companion.



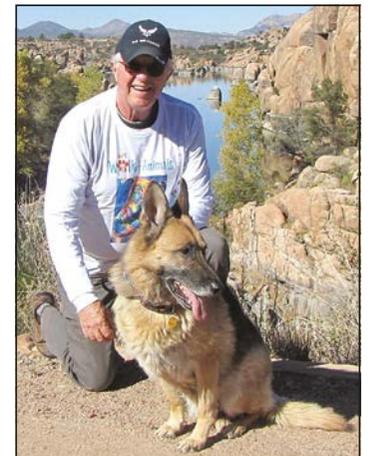
Yavapai Humane Society

Anyone who has a dog knows they provide an endless supply of unconditional love, but did you know our canine companions also provide health benefits for us?

Dogs are extremely in tune with not only our emotions, but also our physical health. They can detect many illnesses and always know when we just need a hug. Having a dog can help lead to lower levels of stress for both kids and adults and have been found to decrease the risk of asthma and allergies in children.

In addition, dog owners are more active than those without as they are out walking with them, which helps to promote health not only in humans, but the dogs as well.

Dogs also tend to help prevent social isolation (which is especially important at this time when we are dealing with social distancing and safety protocols) as dogs seem to open the door to conversation, especially while we're out walking them. This is also another rea-



Al Bryant (member of our Board of Directors from 2015-2020) and Greta.

son dog owners are said to be happier in general because people/dog interaction results in an increase in dopamine levels in the brains of BOTH humans and dogs!

Not only does having a pet help you, it also helps them. You've given them a home and they provide you unconditional love. If you're looking for your new forever friend, there are a lot of animals at Yavapai Humane Society just waiting for their forever home. Visit yavapaihumane.org to see all the available animals and to make an appointment to come meet them.



"Rescue" is not just a verb. It's a promise.

Puppy Love: Your Dog is Your Truest Valentine

Story & photos by Kristy Meyers

"You're PAWsitively amazing!"
"You're so fetching, Valentine!"
"I'm barking mad for you!"
"I'll love you FURever!"
"I WOOF you!"

If you're like me, you have received a card with at least one of these witty sayings. There has been an increasing demand for dog puns on Valentine cards in the last few years, and with good reason. With equally increasing dog ownership across the country, it is clear that our hearts belong to our furry family members. And as research shows, their hearts belong to us as well.

Animal behavior is an expanding field of investigation as countless labs around the world have engaged in studies to determine what genetics, biology, and neuroscience each reveal about dogs and affection.

For years, studies have shown that dogs have an exceptional level of cognition and social intelligence gained after centuries of domestication. However, recent studies have indicated a deeper emotional intelligence in our dogs as well. According to these studies, dogs have not only evolved to simply get more treats, but to form deep bonds with their beloved humans.

My Penny girl certainly has the most expressive eyebrows, which earns her both treats and affection in our household. As I am learning from the data, there is more to this than I assumed.

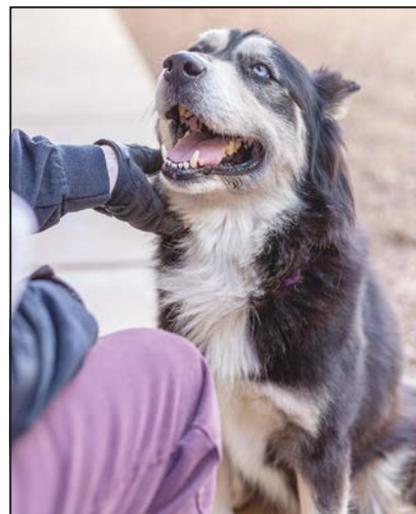
In the last decade, the topic of love in dogs has been a focus for many, including prominent researchers and authors such as Clive Wynne, psychologist and founder of the Canine Science Collaboratory at our very own Arizona State University. His

book, *Dog Is Love: Why and How Your Dog Loves You*, evaluates the brain scans of dogs and the greater field of behavioral psychology to tell us more about man's best friend.

According to his findings, the reward center in dogs' brains lights up significantly with both the signal for treats coming and their humans coming, if not more so with the signal for their human. Similarly, Wynne told NPR that chemicals such as oxytocin spiked in both humans and dogs when they looked lovingly into each other's eyes (NPR, 2019).

This hormone is the same neurotransmitter involved in childbirth, released during long hugs, and heightened in relationships between loved ones. Oxytocin is associated with empathy and trust, just as we experience in our daily interactions with our beloved dogs.

This research indicates that our dogs are not just excited to see us because we feed them, walk them, and play with them, but because they sincerely feel affection. The "love hormone" of oxytocin as well as other important chemicals is equally present in their brain as in ours during our times together.



Wynne also recounts a phenomenon to the Washington Post in which people repeatedly reported dogs attempting to rescue their owners from bombed buildings and other wreckage during WWII (Washington Post, 2019). Similar accounts have turned up across anthropological reports during our times with dogs.

It's no wonder there is an increasing demand for service dogs and emotional support animals alike. He and his team conducted experiments with volunteers crying out in distress and have been astounded that dogs frequently show signs of being upset by these calls and even attempt to rescue their companions from boxes throughout trials (Washington Post, 2019).

It is not just television specials like *Lassie* that show this phenomenon to be true. Just as many of us would do anything for our dogs, it seems they are equally committed to us as well.

If research shows us anything, it's certainly the fact that our furry family members are PAWsitively amazing! Perhaps I need to remember this when it seems

like my dog cares more about the treats I am giving her than my love, for it seems she cares about my affection and my well-being after all.

Most importantly, Wynne leaves us with a call to action this Valentine's Day, as well as one for every day. He states, "You know your dog needs feeding. Most recognize that dogs need exercise. The thing that upsets me is that people don't give enough thought to the fact that a large part of what makes it so wonderful to live with a dog is your dog's social nature." (Washington Post, 2019).

So as we celebrate Valentine's Day, as the spring sunshine starts to bring warmer afternoons, we should all plan to spend a little more time with our special little valentines. We must make a point to enjoy the bonds between us and our sweet dogs, and if research proves anything, we can certainly recognize their sincerity in their signs of affection.

I can tell you without a doubt that my pup and I really will love one another FURever. Don't you feel the same?

Sources

Sofia, M. (NPR). (2019, December 2). "Shortwave" [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/21/771847058/does-your-dog-really-love-you>

Brulliard, K. (2019, September 25). "What makes dogs so special and successful? Love." Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/09/25/what-makes-dogs-so-special-successful-love/>

Kristy Meyers is the owner and photographer for Penny Lane Photography. Visit her at penny-lanephotography.com.

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EVE: A silver-grey female pit bull who is 2 years old. She is very sweet and friendly, and she is very intelligent. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



VALENTINA: A beautiful white mix-breed girl. She is a big girl, and very sweet. She is super-intelligent, walks well on a leash, and knows basic commands. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



BOOGIE: A 3-year-old pit bull cross, and a very special girl who is sweet and silly sometimes. Loves walks, hiking, car rides, and PEOPLE! My adoption fee is now fully sponsored! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



MIA: An unusual Pit Bull/Dachshund cross, she is 5 years old and very snuggly! Walks well, knows tricks, and loves watching TV on the couch with you. Email emilyrose.j45@gmail.com or call High Country Humane 928-526-0742



GRETA: A 1-year-old husky/shepherd mix. She is very high energy and will play all day! She knows sit, down, shake, stay, and she will wait at doorways on command. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-107



BALOO: A 3-year-old male pointer mix. He is a sweet and well mannered boy. He would do best as the only dog, or perhaps with another polite dog. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



BELLA: A 2-year-old female Pit Bull cross. A sweet and affectionate girl who could use a bit of obedience training. She'd be happy to learn as she's very smart. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



TUESDAY: A smallish Australian Shepherd cross, she is 2 years old and very sweet and playful. She is learning manners and walks on a leash. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



BLUE: A large brindle-and-white male purebred American Bulldog, 1 year old. He has a lot of energy and is learning how to be a good boy! Good with kids and dogs. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



CHARLESTON: A 2-year-old Carolina dog mix who is about 32 pounds. He just adores people, including kids. He is a fun dog who is high energy and playful. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



ROY: A 6-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix who is about 43 pounds and has nifty tuxedo markings. He is very sweet & just need a second chance! Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



JAKE: This big boy is a purebred German Shepherd, complete with pedigree papers. Jake has had formal training and he's a dream to work with. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387

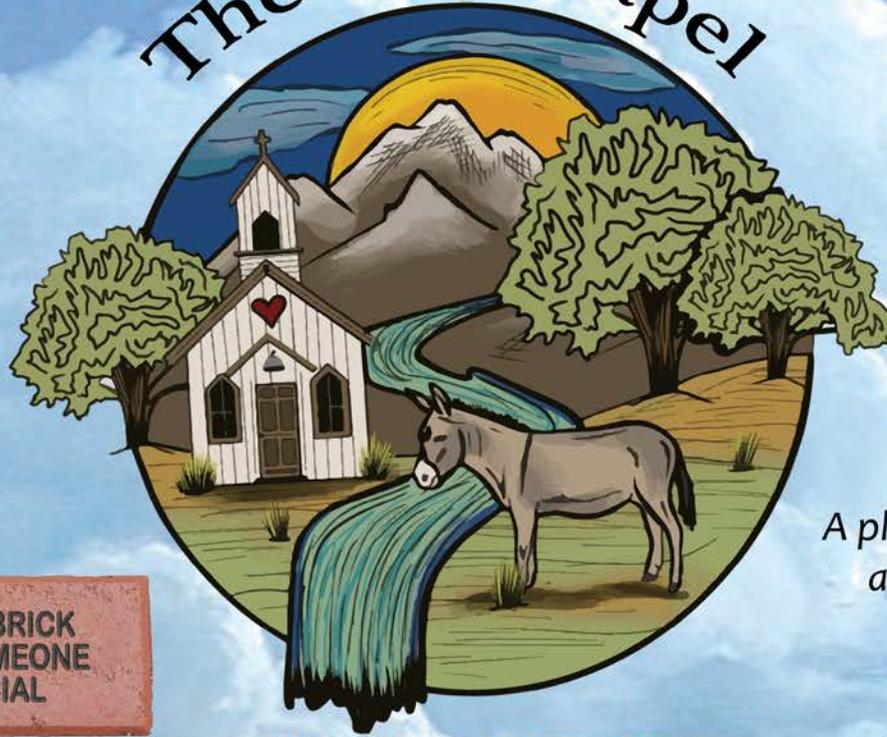


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CALLISTO (L) & GANYMEDE (R): Callisto is a beautiful 7-month-old silver tabby with brilliant green eyes and the most magnificent whiskers! She is sweet and affectionate, as is her sister, Ganymede, who is a lovely tortoiseshell with golden eyes and a very gentle nature. They are very bonded with each other and need to be adopted together, please. They have a 2-for-1 adoption fee. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



GHOUL: A cool black male with golden eyes and a bat symbol on his chest! He is 8 years old and a purr machine who just loves being petted all over. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



WILL: This is a most unique fellow with his gold-dusted white coat and brilliant blue eyes. He is a total snuggle bug who loves people, cuddles, pets, and even gets along with other kitties. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



CHARCOAL: A big, beautiful silver-gray fellow with golden eyes who is 2 years old. He is just the sweetest guy. He loves attention and has a great purr! He is a very gentle guy. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



LITTLE TIM: He is a 4-month-old red and white kitten. He is affectionate, funny, playful, and loves people! Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



CAESAR: A purebred Savannah cat—a breed that is a domestic cat and Serval hybrid. He is unusual, sooo handsome, *but not a cat for everyone*. Caesar is sweet, active, and independent. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



SHERE KHAN: This is a handsome 6-month-old blue-eyed red tabby male, who is really gentle and affectionate in spite of his fierce name. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



KOBE: A 2-year-old purebred blue point Balinese male with the most brilliant blue eyes. He needs lots of cat trees and lots of playtime to get the wiggles out, then lots of pets. Sedona Humane Society 928-282-4679



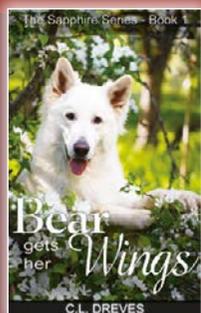
OREO: This is a 1-year-old black and white fellow with bright green eyes. He is the sweetest cat ever & LOVES to be pet. He will be the perfect family cat! Sedona Humane Society 928-282-4679



CHOCOLATE: A lovely medium-haired brown tabby female, 2 years old. She has green eyes, and the most magnificent whiskers ever! She is quiet, likes pets, and gets along with other cats. Sedona Humane Society 928-282-467



ARISTOTLE: A 2-year-old gentleman who is the most perfect golden-eyed house panther ever! He is gentle, affectionate, and loves people. Needs to be indoor only kitty, though. Sedona Humane Society 928-282-4679



Bear Gets Her Wings

by C.L. Dreves

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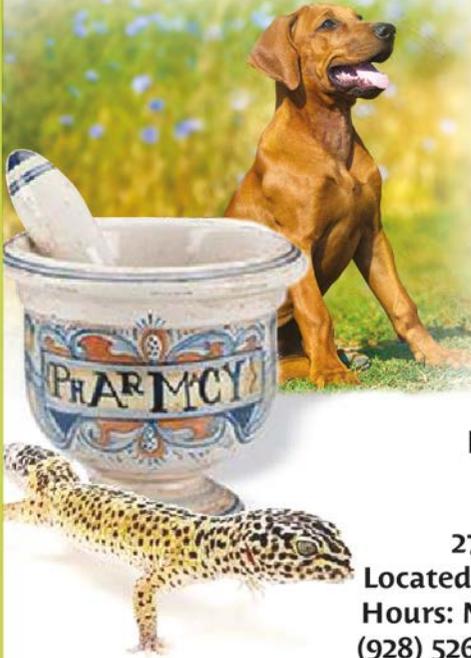
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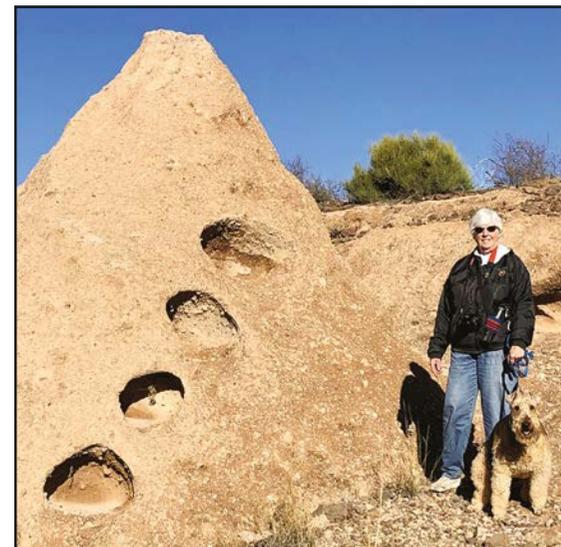
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Hiking with Annie: Teepee Rocks

Story & photos by Melissa Bowersock



Ok, NOW it looks interesting. The rock formations below look exactly like a village of stone teepees. Wind and rain have weathered holes in the rocks, adding another element of interest. So what happened to create this moon-scape?



As we hike the wilderness of our own backyards here in the Southwest, it's hard not to combine the fresh air and exercise with more cranial pursuits. I'm talking about botany, meteorology, and geology to name just a few. Who can hike the Grand Canyon and not think about the millions of years of striated rocks laid down layer by layer, then cut through by the Colorado River and eroded by wind and rain? Every hike can be a mini-science lesson if we're so inclined.

And while the Grand Canyon is awesome, dogs are not allowed on most of the trails, nor on the shuttle that takes people to the furthest reaches. Luckily, we have many fascinating places to hike in Arizona—smaller, yes, perhaps less grand, but interesting all the same.

Less than ten miles from Camp Verde is a place called the Cottonwood Fumaroles or, more familiarly, the Tee Pee Rocks. You might think a place so strange and other-worldly would be a popular destination, but the fact is, you won't find the Tee Pee Rocks unless you know where to look, and even then, you can't see them until you're almost on top of them.

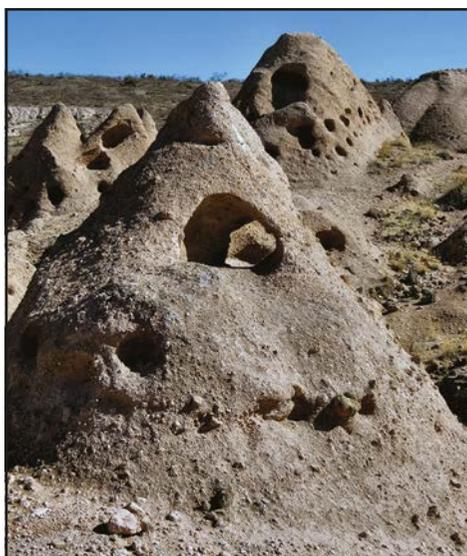
To get there, take Highway 260 east of Camp Verde about eight miles to the turnoff for Fossil Creek Road. Fossil Creek Road is a dirt road, but well-maintained so 4WD is not necessary. Go south about a half mile and look for a parking area on the right side of the road at the base of a tall hill. The area will look absolutely unremarkable, but don't be fooled.

Park either there by the road or take a dirt track up around the left side of the hill. From here, you'll be able to look down at the fumaroles in the valley below.

Fumaroles are vents or cracks in the earth's surface that allow volcanic gases to escape from the depths. It's believed these particular fumaroles formed seven million years ago when such vents developed beneath an older pyroclastic flow of tuff from nearby Hackberry Mountain, a volcano similar in type to Mt. St. Helens. The steam from below carried a large amount of calcium carbonate, which permeated the tuff, hardening into the cone-shaped rocks we see today.

A word of caution about getting down to the rocks. You can pretty much scramble down anywhere, although you may find some paths steeper or rockier than others, and you might end up carrying your dog over rough spots. If you stay to the left, there's a pretty gentle descent that's much easier to navigate. Once you get down to the valley floor, you can explore to your heart's content.

The place is home to all sorts of critters: mice, ground squirrels, lizards, probably the occasional raccoon, coyote, or javalina, so there will be plenty of smells for your dog to investigate. I would strongly suggest that you check out any inviting water holes before your pup sticks his



nose in, just in case there might be a sleeping rattlesnake in there. The same applies to charging into tall wild grass or thick brush: look before you leap, or go around. There are many trails that criss-cross the area, so it's not hard to find a clear path.

Annie certainly kicks into explorer mode whenever we go there, and she's eager to investigate every rock, every hole, every wisp of grass that might have collected a stray scent. Trooper that she is, she's willing to scramble up onto rocks or down into dry watercourses. She's become an excellent trail dog, and goes everywhere we ask her to. That willingness makes for a great wilderness hike; we just have to do our part to keep her safe.

Winter is the perfect time to visit the Tee Pee Rocks. The cooler air keeps the temps down to a comfortable range, which is not the case in summer. In mid-summer when the sun is beating down on the light-colored rock, the heat radiates out and up from the ground, creating a very uncomfortable and even dangerous situation for dogs. For people, it might mean sweating profusely and needing more water; for a dog, it can mean death.

Whatever the season, take plenty of water and even a picnic lunch if you're so inclined. You can spend the day exploring these fascinating rocks and pondering their violent origin. I don't know about you, but I'm always a little humbled to stand beside a rock formation that could be seven million years old. It boggles the mind and has a way of putting our petty little troubles into perspective. We, along with our wonderful adoring pets, come and go, yet the earth, in all its fascinating variety, abides.

Chase's Corner

By Chase & Jan

My Obedience Lesson

I have been working hard since my last column. My mom has this great trainer (who shall not be named) from Phoenix who comes up to our fun matches and then gives me (mostly my mom!) lessons. WELL, the lesson I had in November was quite an experience for a famous dog like me! The first thing she did was hold my muzzle with one hand and with the other hand, put a treat right on my nose and told me, "Quiet." Now, who can be quiet with a treat stuck on their nose?! At least I got my treat and lots of praise when I kept my mouth shut. I think they are trying to teach me to hold the dumbbell and not spit it out when it is wet or has grass on it.

The second thing my mom did was put the dumbbell in my mouth and held it there while she had another treat on my nose. How in the world can you hold a dumbbell really tight while trying to eat the treat that was on your nose?! I guess that is not what she wanted, so



when I held it tight and quietly, I got the treat, praise, and more treats. I think I am starting to figure this all out.

The next thing she did was put the dumbbell close to me on the ground and told me to "get it." I do like to mess around with it with my feet and even sometimes run past it. I try to tell them that I am just arranging it so I can pick it up. But, they don't understand. When I did that, my mom pulled my hair and told me to get it correctly. What an indignation for a star, but I

quit playing around and picked it up quietly. Again, lots of treats and lots of praise. Guess I would rather do that than get my hair pulled!

You understand that I have been doing all of this work while sitting in the sun. I heard my instructor tell someone to go sit in the shade. Yup, I was sure it was me, so I trotted over to the nice shady spot and took a rest. WHAT? My mom brought me right back to my sunny spot. Guess since I live in Arizona that I had better get used to showing in the sun.

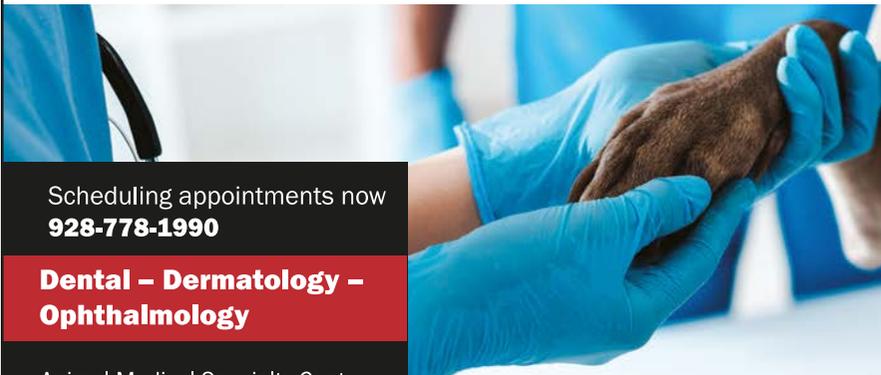
The fun thing about taking obedience lessons from Debbie is that she also teaches you great tricks, like "paws up", "spin" and "touch." This makes training really fun along with the serious exercises. I do something correctly, and then I get to do a trick. Her school is named Precision Canine-Tricked Out Training, so you know it is a super fun place to train.

HAPPY TRAINING TO YOU AND A VERY HAPPY 2021!

CHASE'S CORNER



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Fostering Kylie

This is a story about an amazing recovery of an emaciated, neglected dog whose rebound was facilitated by the diligence and determination of two dedicated Yavapai Humane Trappers Animal Search and Rescue (YHT) fosters. It reminds us that a dog with a crushed spirit can be turned around with love, patience, and consistent handling. And that we should never give up trying to help the dogs and cats that need us the most.

Kylie's story with YHT began in early May when some folks



reached out to us about four starving dogs in Winslow that did not have much time left. Our search and rescue team headed out and brought back these emaciated and starving dogs abandoned in a home with little food or water. One of our super fosters, Karen Goldstein, took them in and began by just letting them catch their breath. Kylie was the most shut down, fearful of people and would barely take food when offered.

Two of the less traumatized dogs went to other homes which left Kylie and her possible father for Karen to work with. But then the real work had to begin to build her trust starting with soft voices, light touch and reassuring treatment, and frequent small meals to put weight on her.

Over the next months, she gained strength, confidence, and weight in the training yard at Karen's back yard. Lots of walks on a lead, exposure to other people



and animals, and introductions to different noises were performed, spending hours each day to work her up to each new level. Her growth was slow but steady until you could see the happy dog inside of her peeking out.

When Karen needed to put full time focus on Kylie's possible dad, Annette Lasurdo took over on the challenge and worked with her at her home. There Kylie learned that being a happy playful dog was safe and fun. She could let her dog guard down by cuddling with her foster parents on the couch and snuggling with her foster dog siblings in their beds. She further learned the security of daily meals and kind hands.

After a few months with Annette, her biggest opportunity was presented...a loving permanent home of her own.

In November, she caught the eye of two people wanting to add to their dog pack. Everyone



held their breath to see how Kylie would take to her new challenge. Amazingly, and thanks to the diligent training she was provided, she adjusted quickly as if she knew she was finally really home. Her new parents, Karen and Paul, love her dearly and appreciate her new trusting nature, knowing it was a long road to that transition.

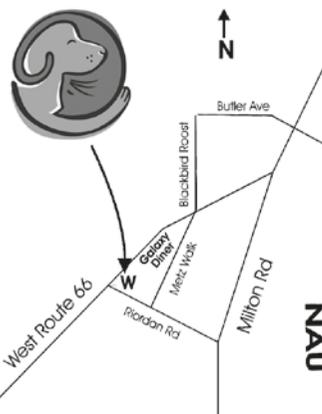
This is why YHT volunteers do what they do, these success stories run deep to our hearts. And this is how seven months of care and work can give a fearful shut down dog a new happy lease on life showing a wonderful village at work to make Kylie's dream come true.



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