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*Introducing Quincy,
Our Cover Dog*

The Ghastly Horrors of Halloween

Hiking with Annie

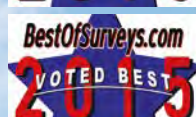
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CONTENTS

- 5 Quincy, Our Cover Dog
- 6 Tucker's Take
- 8 Rescue Resources
- 10 The Ghastly Horrors of Halloween Hazards.....Shari King
- 12 Rescue Tales
- 14 Dogs for Adoption
- 16 Cats for Adoption
- 18 Hiking with Annie: Zion National Park
.....Melissa Bowersock
- 19 Chase's Corner: I'm An Agility Dog
..... Chase and Jan Tomlinson
- 20 Mammoth Lakes Dog Paradise.....
..... Stacey Wittig
- 21 Pets & People Resource Directory



FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

Cherie L. Dreves – Publisher/Owner

PO Box 11868, Prescott AZ 86304 • (928) 445-4811

info@reddogpublishing.net

Website: FlagstaffSedonaDog.com • Facebook: [FlagstaffSedonaDog](https://www.facebook.com/FlagstaffSedonaDog)

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PUBLISHER

Cherie L Dreves

ADVERTISING

(928) 445-4811

Cherie@reddogpublishing.net

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

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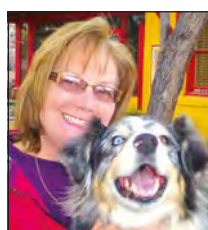
Melissa Bowersock



Shari King



Jan Tomlinson



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COVER DOG CONTEST

Do You Have a Beautiful Pet?

Share a photo of them for their chance to be Flagstaff-Sedona Dog's next Cover Dog! Have their picture on the cover of 10,000 Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazines.

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER

1. Email your entry to: info@reddogpublishing.net (Don't forget to attach your photo.)
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 December 2021/January 2022 edition of Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine, we need to receive your entry by 11:59 pm on October 31, 2021.



Quincy, Our Cover Dog



Name: Quincy

Hometown: Sedona, Arizona

Age: Three years old

Favorite brand of kibble: Nature's Domain Beef and Sweet Potato with any freeze-dried raw on top.

Favorite People Food: Peanut butter

Favorite Toy: Chuck-It Glow Ball

Favorite Outdoor Activity: Swimming, whether it be in a pool or creek.

Favorite Indoor Activity: I love movie nights! Nothing better than popcorn, cuddles, blankets, and movies!

Favorite Nap Spot: Wherever my mom is. I'm always watching her – it's my job as her service dog!

Fitness Regimen: I'm a service dog, and I also compete in obedience and sports! To get fit, I swim, hike, walk, fetch, and play with my doggie friends!

Describe Your Perfect Canine Pal: My favorite canine pal is my little sister Luna. She's a cream poodle who is a year and a half younger than me.

I don't like cuddling with other dogs, but I allow it from Luna – I've got to be a good role model after all! No matter what, I always take care of her (including giving her a morning facial where I lick her face clean).

Describe Your Perfect Day: My perfect day would start with waking up late on a sunny day with cuddles with my mom. Everyone in the house has to say, "Good morning, Quincy" or I'll follow them around until they do.

Then we'd head to the trails for a hike, and the hike would end with a swim in a creek or lake, of course – I am a poodle after all). After all that, I'd love to get pampered with a bath and blow out before going out with my mom and working as her service dog. Helping my mom manage her disability is my favorite part of the day!

All that makes me super tired, so I'd end my day with some wet food and a nap by the fire pit. Finally, everyone has to say, "Goodnight, Quincy" and give me my bedtime cookie before it's off to sleep!

To see more photos of me, please visit FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



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Tucker's Take

Hearth and Home, Or....

Long before I became the sheriff of our pack, even before I really got to settle into my new home, I met Buster.

When I have to do my morning "constitution-al", I prefer that everyone, four-legged or two, go back inside without me so I can have some private time. Finding the perfect place to do my duty can take a bit of time and requires concentration.

Sometimes Dad sticks his head out the patio door and gives me The Look, which only breaks my concentration, and I have to start all over again. Check the wind speed and direction, angle of the sun, ground temperature, and level of moisture (comparing the northwest side as opposed to the southeast side). Is it a landscape gravel morning, or should I choose the carpet of pine needles?

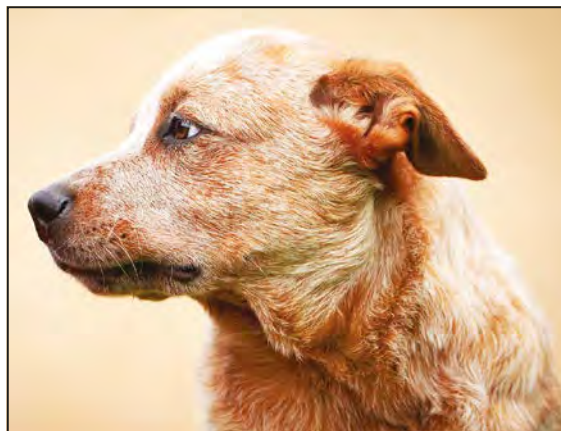
In the midst of decisions like this, one morning two years ago, I settled into the perfect spot, assumed the position, and looked up to see a Red Heeler staring at me through the chain link fence. When our eyes met, the Heeler's tail wagged twice, and before I could finish what I was engaged in doing, I was hit with a barrage of questions and odd statements.

Normally I would have been at that fence in full throttle and full vocal declarations, but I was new to this home, and frankly I was flustered and embarrassed at that moment. Not because I was doing my business; it was the fact that a dog not of our pack, had gotten that close without me sensing it.

"Do you know if that Labrador girl still lives over that hill on the other side... they call me Buster... I haven't caught her scent lately... I smell wrong... bath day... have you been with this pack long... you smell new here... do you think Lab girl would mind my smelling wrong?"

As he continued on, never pausing for me to answer, I stepped a bit closer and lowered my head to get his full scent, and was greeted with a very strong synthetic fragrance of lilacs. I felt relieved as I had caught that scent moments before, but I thought Mom was on an air-freshener jag in the house, and it had drifted out the open windows. So, this Buster hadn't really, completely, snuck up on me.

My visitor continued rattling on, even while walking away to mark a small tree, and came right back to the fence when Dad (tired of waiting for me) appeared. At first, Dad pretended not to see Buster, and knelt down in place while calling me softly. Buster was about to bolt, but curiosity made him stay to see what kind of pack-Dad I



Buster, the Red Heeler

might have. I got a quick back scratch and a pat on the head, then Dad addressed Buster.

"Hey buddy, what's your name?" Dad handed me a beefy treat from his back pocket.

That peaked Buster's interest visibly. Dad got up slowly, quietly, then firmly sent me in the house while tossing a couple treats in Buster's direction, but out of his reach just inside the fence.

Dad told me later that, after I was inside, he'd gone out the gate and as he walked, every ten feet or so, he dropped a treat behind him. Buster (foregoing for the moment all thoughts of romance) followed Dad down the road, through a cul-de-sac and a side yard to the backyard fence-lines of the neighborhood. All the while, Buster had happily followed, scooping up treats until they got near one particular fence. Then Buster hesitated, weighing his options.

"Is this your home, Buddy?"

Dad walked a few steps forward while watching Buster back up a few steps, disregarding the morsel just a few feet in front of him. Dad looked down at the bottom of the fence and pointed at the fresh pile of overturned dirt below the wood panels.

"Is this your handiwork?" Dad pointed to the hole dug below the fence.

Buster backed up two more steps.

"Hey, I have an idea," Dad said with feigned excitement. "Let's go over to the wash and look for lizards to chase, and maybe mark some stuff." Dad dropped more treats behind him while jogging over to the wash.

This was more than Buster could ignore, outright fun might be available. *Must... follow... running... treat... man.*

While down in the wash they played and chased each other, and after a bit Dad gathered a few big rocks and awkwardly climbed up and out of the wash. Buster dutifully followed Dad right up

to the fence with the dug-out hole. Dad took a fist full of treats, held them at Buster's nose for the count of three, then threw them over the fence.

All the gentle and happy winds that filled Buster's sails up to that moment evaporated.

Dad's voice broke into his thoughts. "It's up to you Buddy. Think it through."

Buster turned and looked around the neighborhood. He thought about the girls he'd... had the pleasure to know... then remembered getting the broom beating, and those cold buckets of water. Then there was the time he'd snuck out during monsoons, and how sick he gotten after messing with that big toad.

More mishaps from his roaming came to mind, and then the realization that his boy and girl would be getting home from school soon. Buster knew the boy would be disappointed to find that his four-legged friend had run away (again). Maybe the girl would read her homework to Buster again like last night. He'd really liked that; it made him feel smart and needed.

Buster turned and, ignoring the scattered treats and without even looking at Dad, straightway scurried under the fence and bee-lined to the back door, barking to be let in. He wanted to be waiting at the front door when the kids came home.

Dad set his cache of rocks in Buster's "escape hatch" and headed home.

When Dad told me how it went, I had to hold back from laughing at one part. Dad caught that, and asked me what I thought was so funny, but I didn't have the heart to tell him that the image of him jogging just cracks me up inside.

At bedtime, Hazel and I had a good laugh privately. We actually tried to think of ways to trick Dad into doing it again so we could see it for ourselves. If we got him jogging, could we stop him abruptly to see which parts of him kept moving?

After our fun imaginings at Dad's expense, Hazel waxed philosophical before she drifted off to sleep.

"We should be more thankful for those that help us with course corrections, and for the two-leggeds that help us when our orbit is off."

"What's an orbit?" I asked, yawning.

Dad abruptly sat up in bed. "It's where I'm going to send both of you if you don't quiet down and go to sleep!"

I looked at Hazel for some indication if we really had done something wrong, but she just yawned and rolled over. So, I did too.

~Tucker Oso

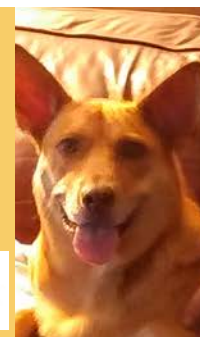


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The Ghastly Horrors of Halloween Hazards

Story & photos by Shari King

With cooler temperatures, longer nights, and the arrival of fallen leaves crunching at one's feet, we all start to anticipate the wonderful gifts of fall. Fall festivals, fall decorations, and of course the super-fun holiday Halloween. But for some of our four-legged friends, All Hallows Eve can become a dreadful time especially if it precludes an emergency trip to the vet. Even more horrifying, hospitalization in an animal hospital, the scariest place on the planet for some pets.

Let's take a look at some common preventable Halloween hazards.

The most common hazard: accidental poisoning. Here is a fright-filled list of the potential poisonous substances our pets encounter each Halloween.

Chocolate

Not a surprise entry into our ghoulish list of deadly poisons but a very clear runner for top dog. Dogs are sensitive to the chemicals theobromine and caffeine in chocolate. These gruesome chemicals are present in products made from cocoa.

Dark chocolates contain much larger amounts of these toxic chemicals than milk chocolate. Dogs metabolize theobromine and caffeine much slower than you or I. This can affect the stomach, the nervous system, the heart, and can seriously impact a dog's kidney function.

One of the first signs of chocolate toxicity dog owners may see is vomiting and diarrhea. This can occur a mere 2-4 hours after ingestion. If you come home from the neighborhood block party and find remnants of torn chocolate packaging, and you're sure that your dog has consumed dark chocolate, you can induce vomiting if it has been within a 1-2 hour window. But longer than that, the stomach empties and the theobromine and caffeine are already being absorbed by the intestines.

Advanced stages of chocolate toxicity will present restlessness, anxiety, stiffness, and possibly seizures. Unfortunately, if they get to this stage, many dogs, if they are not treated, will die within 48 hours.



Pet owners need to be aware that there are other sources of chocolate and caffeine that aren't necessarily made by common commercial chocolate companies. There are some types of mulch that contain cocoa beans hulls, so dog owners need to be careful about what types of mulch they spread in their gardens. This can also be harmful to horses and chickens, too.

Xylitol

A relatively newcomer in the world of pet toxins, xylitol is a sugar substitute found in sugar free gums, mints, and candies. Some companies are also using it in peanut butters, so always be sure to check the labels!

When dogs eat something containing xylitol, it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and can result in a rapid release of insulin and decrease in blood sugar. This can occur within 10 to 60 minutes of consuming a food containing xylitol.

Left untreated, the sweet treat can quickly become life-threatening. If your dog ingests xylitol, it is important to find the packaging for the product so that the amount of xylitol consumed can be estimated by poison control.

Raisins and Grapes

Not the most life threatening of all our poisonous participants; however, the

price tag of the vet visit for IV fluids, blood work, and hospitalization may just put you into cardiac arrest from sticker shock.

The most common early symptoms of grape or raisin toxicity is vomiting. This is generally seen within 24 hours following ingestion. Lack of appetite, lethargy, and possibly diarrhea can be also seen within the next 12-24 hours. The more severe signs are typically not seen for up to 24-48 hours after ingestion. Unfortunately, these signs are often noted after acute kidney damage has already begun.

Symptoms of acute kidney failure include nausea, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, excessive thirst, and excessive urination. As poisoning progresses, the kidneys will stop functioning, and the dog may not be able to produce urine.

The dog's blood pressure often increases dramatically. He or she may lapse into a coma due to a buildup of substances which the kidneys usually eliminate through urine. Once the kidneys have shut down and urine output has dropped, the prognosis or outcome is usually poor.

Rotting Pumpkins

Not a well-known poison in pets, but certainly worth mentioning. Mycotoxins are poisonous substances produced by fungi and molds that grow on spoiled food. These substances are toxic to dogs.

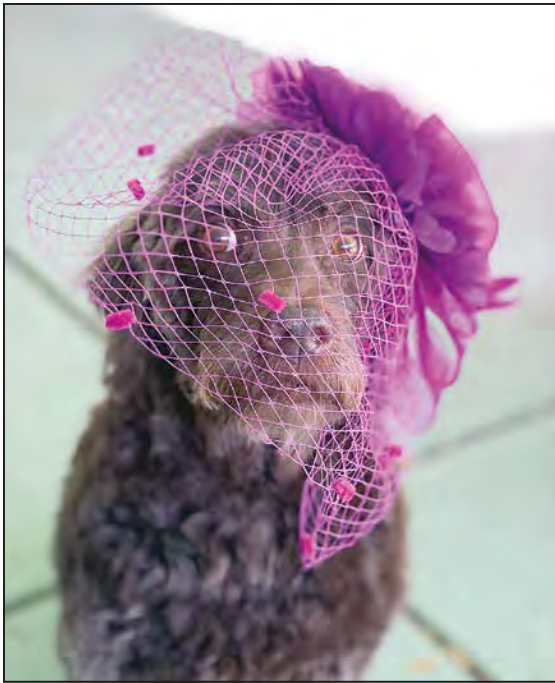
Dogs and cats eat pumpkin readily, but if that Jack O' Lantern on the front porch is starting to sag and develop mold, it may be time to give it the ole heave ho before some furry friend decides to snack on it.

The next contender on our Halloween hazardous horror list is choking.

Lollipops on Sticks

How many licks does it take to get to the middle of a Tootsie pop? Many large dogs don't even give you a chance to start counting, and it's gone!

Unfortunately, choking is a life threatening emergency that has to be



or taco. Leaving decorative Halloween collars on cats is also a definite no-no.

Halloween Decorations

Pretty, bright colors, sparkles, and glitter are looking oh, so tasty to your Bulldog, Bubba.

Do your best to decorate your space in a pet friendly way. Keep the ingestible Halloween deco off the coffee table, the windowsills, and the stairs. Counter height and above is generally safe unless you share your home with a Great Dane.

Glow Sticks

These are very alluring to dogs that like to chew, and although the chemical dibutyl phthalate is generally nontoxic, it can cause problems.

When a dog bites into or ingests glow jewelry or glow sticks, the chemical causes an intense taste reaction. Symptoms can include drooling and pawing at the mouth from skin irritation. Vomiting is rare. The biggest threat from eating glow sticks is primarily from choking or possible bowel obstruction from the chewed pieces of plastic.

Burns

Not a common occurrence in our (thankfully) wildfire-conscious state, but it happens. Who doesn't love the scent of a pumpkin spice or candy-corn candle? So do dogs, and if it smells good, it must taste good, right?

Be sure you never leave a candle burning unattended around pets, and displaying a candle higher is always better.

The Lost Pet

This is surely the most dreadful of Halloween hazards.

Losing a pet is a very common occurrence during the hustle and bustle of any holiday. The door opens and closes often, and we become distracted. Unfortunately, animals are curious and most definitely, opportunists.



If the possibility of trick or treating happens for us this year (keep your fingers crossed), it's always best to secure pets in a back room or bedroom.

If you have an anxious, spooked pet, try your best to limit the sound of the doorbell or door knocking. Perhaps set up a lawn chair outside for yourself in a scary costume with your goodies? Enjoy hand delivering the trick or treats to all the monsters, superheroes, and fairies hopefully prowling your neighborhood this Halloween.

So while you are stringing cobwebs and filling that plastic pumpkin with treats, take a moment to locate the phone number of emergency animal hospital nearest you and keep it handy. Load it into your phone while you have a clear head. Include the number for Poison Control too. The ASPCA Poison Control number is 888-426-4435.

With a dog's weight, the packaging of the poisonous product, and the amount consumed, they can help calculate whether a pet is in trouble and also teach you how to induce vomiting if needed. It may just save your dog's life.

Hoping you and your pets have a safe and happy Halloween!

handled immediately. Rarely is there ever time to make the phone calls, and the trip to the vet in order to save a pet's life from choking. You can perform the Heimlich Maneuver on your pet if you're present when ingestion occurs.

There are excellent videos online displaying the proper way to perform the Heimlich maneuver on a pet. Familiarize yourself with the technique by watching several of these videos before tragedy strikes so you can act quickly and confidently.

When a dog is choking and oxygen is cut off to his brain and circulatory system, he will instinctively start to panic. This can make even the calmest of dogs exhibit out-of-control behavior.

If your dog is panicking, try to keep him restrained so he doesn't hurt you or himself. Wrapping a blanket around him helps but don't restrict his ability to move his mouth.

Costume Parts

Costumes on pets are so adorable! However loose parts, googly eyes, pom-pom noses, tassels, and buttons are all choking hazards.

Never leave your pet unattended while he is dressed like a cowboy, monkey,

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Did you know approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide every year, and almost half of those animals are given up because of behavioral issues? Sometimes these issues are a quick fix, but the resources available for most dog and cat parents is limited.

The Humane Society of Sedona is hoping to lead the way in preventing these sometimes unnecessary surrenders by offering invaluable behavioral advice and guidance. We currently have a full-time Certified Cat Behaviorist, Shani Campbell, who has helped numerous cats stay in their loving homes! Megan Veugeler, a full-time animal care associate, is currently in school to become a Certified Dog Behaviorist. She has already cared for and guided countless dogs into wonderful homes.

Before adoption, during adoption, and after adoption we offer behavior consultation to ease the transition of dogs and cats into their new homes. We also offer numerous cat behavior videos on our YouTube Channel: just search for "Humane Society of Sedona". Our cat behavior videos have been shared and used all over the U.S. and Puerto Rico.



We are so fortunate to have both Megan & Shani taking their careers further with education and certification. We know they will provide immeasurable knowledge and assistance to humans and animals in need.

We want to continue to reduce these extremely high numbers of animals landing in shelters. We want to help our community and beyond, to keep animals in their amazing homes and most importantly, save lives.



"These are sled racing dogs," I say, as they politely nod their heads. "No, really, here's a video of us racing on a sled."

I show them a video clip on my phone.

"Oh! I thought you were joking. They don't look like sled dogs, and you live in Arizona!"

Such is the surprise of most that Arizona has an active mushing community. In fact, in the mid-90s the San Francisco and White Mountain areas once held races that attracted as many as 45 sled race teams. Today, annual sled races are still held at Sunrise Ski and near Flagstaff, but the races are smaller than they once were. Less snow and warmer temperatures mean that the snow is no longer guaranteed to be the quality or depth mushers want.

One might assume sled dog sports are dying in Arizona, but last year Arizona hosted its largest mushing race ever with 53 teams. This year, it's on track to be the biggest United States mushing event outside of the Great Lakes or Alaskan regions, all without a single flake of snow. This race hosts teams on mountain bikes, off-road scooters, runners, and ultralight four-wheeled racing carts.

While 16 dog teams are rare to see on Arizona trails in the 21st century, small teams of one to six dogs are becoming far more common than ever before. One or two dogs can pull a skier or mountain biker just as fast as a full sled team. This also allows people to



participate in these sports without committing to owning large numbers of dogs.

Wheeled racing carts with three to eight dogs also allow larger teams to train and race without snow. Modern races are now usually just two to twenty miles, instead of hundreds of miles. The dogs are different, too. Siberian huskies typically race at 6 mph to 12 mph during endurance events, but most mushing today is a lot faster. Arizona race speeds will often average over 20 mph, with dogs mistaken for greyhounds or German shorthair pointers.

The husky lineage is still strong in these race dogs, but a variety of unexpected breeds excel in these sports and have been mixed in to achieve higher speeds, at the expense of reduced endurance. Often people discover their apartment dog that likes to pull on the leash for walks actually has the drive for mushing sports once the dog gets a chance to put on a sledding harness.

This year's Flagstaff Trail Dog Challenge race will be November 13 and 14 at the Arizona Nordic Village, and it's open to spectators. In case of early season snow, the race may be held at a lower elevation nearby.

We ask that pets are kept at home or in cars during the event, but we welcome everyone to reach out to the Rocky Mountain Sled Dog Club if you think your dog has what it takes to race! For more information, please visit rmsdc.org.



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She is now housebroken, uses the doggie door, walks great on a leash, and sits very nicely for treats. She has been spayed, microchipped, and is nearly complete with vaccinations.

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Here's a few more facts regarding Pit Bulls:

- You are 240 times more likely to die in a texting-while-driving accident than from a Pit Bull attack.
- You are 16 times more likely to die being hit by a falling coconut than from a Pit Bull attack.

Pitties are often overlooked because of their breed and, just like with a lot of other dogs who have that certain "stigma" about them, it's NOT the breed it's how they've been raised.

Pitbull-type dogs make terrific canine citizens and are loving companions in millions of homes. They regularly achieve outstanding temperament scores, are successful as service dogs, therapy dogs, K-9 police dogs, and as family pets.

There are many myths about this breed that have been proven to be scientifically unfounded. Unfortunately, these myths have already caused fear, discrimination and, lower adoption rates in shelters across the country who have many pit bulls or pit bull mixes in their facilities.

According to the American Temperament Test Society Inc, Pit Bulls had a passing rate of 86.4%. In fact, Pit Bulls ranked higher than Golden Retrievers, Beagles, Cocker Spaniels, Shih Tzus, Chihuahuas, Yorkshire

- Pit Bulls don't have the strongest bite powers. Rottweilers are considered to have strongest bite forces. Pitties also do not have locking jaws; their jaws are the same as any other dog.
- Pit Bulls are intelligent and are eager to learn.
- Pit Bulls are no different than any other affectionate and trainable breed. All dog owners and people who know them should play their parts by training them properly to set an example to remove their bad created image and to create awareness in people.

Now, am I saying that Pit Bulls are all good and not dangerous? No, I'm not! But you really can't say that about any breed out there. Many vicious and serious attacks have come from



other breeds including German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Husky's, and even Chihuahuas.

Here's the thing... any dog can become uncomfortable enough to want to flee, fight, or freeze up. Responsible owners, proper socialization, training, and making sure their individual needs are met (including proper nutrition) all play a part in preventing dog fights.

Are there unprovoked attacks? Yes! Are there unnecessary deaths? Yes! But did you know that since 1979 there have been 54 different breeds linked to human dog-bite fatalities, including the Jack Russell Terrier and dachshunds.

Are there bad Pit Bulls? Yes! The thing to remember is that not all of them are bad. We have Pit Bulls here that are some of the sweetest most loving dogs. Are there some here that we wouldn't want to go home to a family with children or other dogs? Yes!

Just like humans, no two dogs are the same, and they shouldn't be judged as if they are the. The thing to remember is to be responsible with the way we raise, socialize, and train dogs. Am I advocating for just Pit Bulls? No! I'm advocating for ALL breeds!

Please do your homework and remember... adopt a Pit, don't believe the bull.

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BRUNO: A goofy 5-year-old male American Pit Bull Terrier Mix. He loves people and other dogs, but not so much a fan of cats. He walks well on a leash.
Humane Society of Sedona
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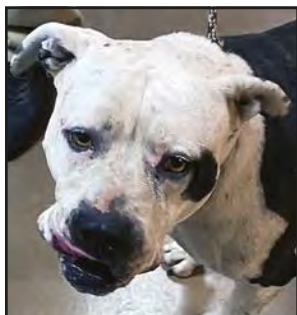
OAKLEY: A young male black-and-white Staffordshire terrier mix. He is a beefcake of a guy. He's strong, affectionate, and kind of a goofball who loves affection and to play. Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



MEATBALL: A 1-year-old brindle Mastiff mix, a big sweet boy who loves people and other dogs. His adoption fee is fully sponsored.
High Country Humane
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FIONA: A small Chihuahua mix, Little Miss Fiona is a 1-year-old red-and-white sweetheart! Give her a minute or two, and she will be your best buddy!
Verde Valley Humane Society
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FRECKLES: A 4-year-old black and white female pit bull mix. She is very affectionate and loves people, adventures, and cozy spots to hang out with you.
High Country Humane
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STEINBECK: A young male Border terrier mix who weighs about 22 pounds. True to his breed, Steinbeck is energetic and will need lots of exercise.
Verde Valley Humane Society
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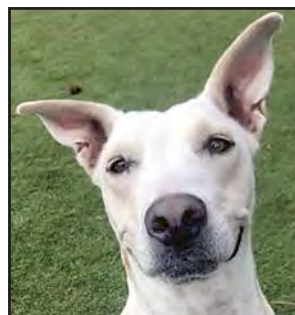
SLY: A 4-1/2 year old Labrador Retriever/Australian Shepherd mix. He loves tennis balls, car rides, and walks. He needs a moment to warm up to people, but he's very loving once he does. Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



LUCKY: A handsome 2-year-old black and white male pit bull mix. For more information please contact the Coconino Humane Society
928-526-1076



HONEY: A 2-year-old red female pit bull mix with the most amazing amber eyes. She is a very friendly gal who loves to play fetch and hang out with people.
High Country Humane
928-526-0742



HARLEY: A white 2-year-old boxer/pit bull mix. She is a sweet Rez mama. She loves love people, walks well on a leash, and is easy to train.
Coconino Humane Society
928-526-1076



FREDDIE: A 2-year-old male Chihuahua mix who weighs about 12 pounds. He is a bit shy at first, but he is very affectionate and snuggly after that.
Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



MOLLY: A very special 3-year-old Golden Retriever mix. She has a lot of love to give but has quite a story to tell. For more information please contact the Coconino Humane Society
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Flagstaff-Sedona  **Dog**
magazine



PENELOPE: A sweet 7-year-old dilute tortoiseshell female. She is sweet, affectionate, talkative and a big ole purr machine. Her adoption fee is fully sponsored! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



TITAN: A stunning young Bengal male with amazing turquoise eyes. This is a rare breed, and adopters should be familiar with their energy level and their wild ways. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



BROOKLYN: A 10-year-old black lady with big green eyes. She is gentle, affectionate, and craves living with a family of her own once more. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



RYAN: A handsome senior gent, smoky gray with beautiful eyes. He is gentle, affectionate, and would love a lap to curl up in. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



BERKELEY: A handsome 5-month-old classic red tabby male with huge copper eyes. He is sweet, affectionate, funny, and loves to play. He would love a playmate. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



LUNA: A beautiful 1-year-old tuxedo lady with big green eyes. For more information please contact the Coconino Humane Society 928-526-1076



WINTER: A 1-year-old torti-point Siamese mix female with the most amazing blue eyes! She is very affectionate and a wonderful & loving lap cat. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



ORANGINA: A tiny orange tabby female with big golden eyes. Orange females are a bit unusual, so she's special. For more information please contact the Coconino Humane Society 928-526-1076



MOUSE: A cute 6-year-old male cream tabby. He loves sitting on laps, rubbing legs so you know he loves you, and playing with toys. Good with other cats, too. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



CINDY: A lovely 2-year-old lady. She is dove grey with golden eyes and white toes. For more information please contact the Coconino Humane Society 928-526-1076



LOU: A very handsome 8-year-old long-haired male tuxedo cat. He is very loving and sweet. He's a wonderful companion who will follow you everywhere. Good with cats and kids, too. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



WHISPA: A gorgeous 2-year-old black female with amazing green eyes. She's very vocal, chirps and trills to communicate. Very affectionate, loves pets, and afternoon naps. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



PHOEBE: A most elegant young black female with huge orange eyes. She will be your very own house panther. She is very affectionate, and she loves to snuggle. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



BOBBLES: A 4-year-old silver tabby female. Lost her home, and she's pretty scared at the shelter. She is sweet and affectionate, just needs love and patience. Adoption fee sponsored. High Country Humane 928-526-0742

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Hiking with Annie: Zion National Park

By Melissa Bowersock



Zion National Park is awesomely beautiful, but a tough one for dog-lovers. Why? Because with all those wide-open spaces, all that natural beauty, there is actually only one trail where dogs are allowed. One. Yeah, I was surprised, too.

It's called the Pa'rus Trail, and dogs are allowed—on leash of course. The paved trail starts close to the visitor's center and is easily accessible to hikers, bicyclers, and even wheelchairs. You can catch it just north of the visitor's center near the South Campground, and it meanders through the lower end of Zion Canyon along—and across—the Virgin River.

There are several places where you can access the river, but be aware, especially during hot weather, of blooms of blue-green algae. The river is shallow and when it's heated by the summer sun, the algae multiply rapidly, and it's toxic to dogs and people. It would be advisable to check with the park rangers about the status of the river before heading out.

The area here is home to many mule deer and some bighorn sheep, so keep an eye out for the local wildlife. Annie, my Aire-dale, is getting used to seeing deer near our home in Kanab, even seeing them in our yard, but she still sometimes barks at them or tries to chase them. The deer, as well, are very used to people and dogs, and they may or may not run from you.

If a buck decided to stand his ground instead of running from a dog, it could certainly inflict some serious damage. Their antlers are not to be messed with, and even the does have sharp hooves that can cut through skin and bone. Enjoy the wildlife, but give them their space.

That said, leashed dogs are also allowed along public roads, in parking areas, and

in campgrounds and picnic areas. Because there are jaw-dropping views everywhere, there are lots of turnouts along the roads. The flip side of this, of course, is that there are lots and lots of people and never-ending traffic.

Anytime you're tempted to stop and investigate a turnout or parking area with your dog, stay aware of your surroundings. So many people and cars in juxtaposition is a recipe for disaster, so safeguard your pet and yourself from accidents. It's not unusual to see tourists—either walking or driving—gaping with awe at the grandeur around them, but not minding what's directly in front of them.

Although most of Zion sits at about a 4,000-



foot elevation, it does get extremely hot during the summertime. Plan accordingly with clothing choices, and always pack plenty of water for you and your pet.

In the wintertime, Zion gets its fair share of snow, and during the summer monsoon months violent thunderstorms and even flash floods are not uncommon. You only need to look around you to realize that all the deep canyons and high peaks were eroded by water, and you can guess at the power that can be unleashed.

Like at all our national parks, be aware and respectful of

the weather. It can be the backdrop of a perfect day or it can do its level best to kill you.

The first time I went to Zion was in October of 2020. This was a time when most of us felt like the Covid danger was easing up, and people were eager to get out of the house and especially to get out into the wilderness.

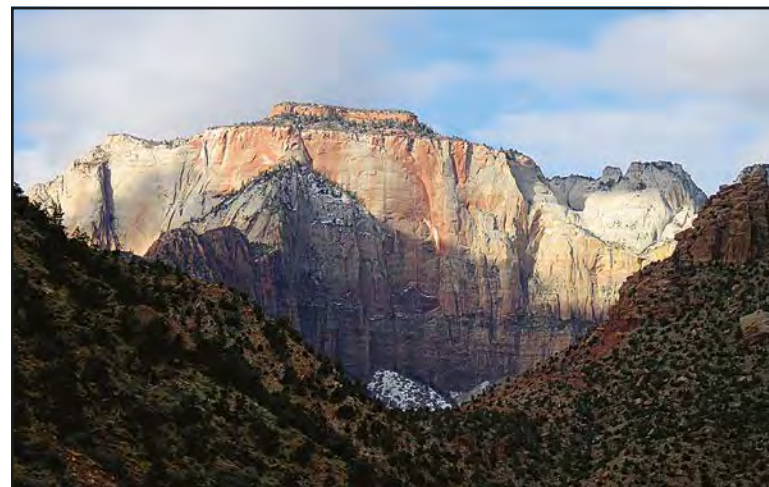
The park was jammed. The more popular turnouts and parking areas were complete chaos, so even trying to stop to get a good look at some of the more famous views was nearly impossible.

The second time I went was in January of 2021, and it was a completely different story. There was little snow so the roads were clear, and until almost noon, I only had to share the road with a handful of cars. During January, the shuttle does not run, so visitors may drive the scenic road all the way up the canyon. It can be dicey, depending on the weather, but well worth it.

Additional park regulations prohibit dogs on shuttle buses or in public buildings anywhere in the park. You must, of course, pick up after your dog and deposit waste in trash containers. Any pet owner not adhering to the park's regulations can be fined, and the minimum is \$100.

If you feel the need to explore Zion more than your four-legged companion will allow, there are boarding kennels available in the surrounding towns, the closest being Kanab or Cedar City.

The good news is that there are many beautiful and interesting things to see and do outside of the park: slot canyons, pink sand dunes, even dinosaur tracks. Southern Utah is packed with adventure; you just have to go out and find it. Stay safe and your dog will love exploring beside you.



Chase's Corner: I'm An Agility Dog

By Chase and Jan Tomlinson

My very favorite dog activity is running agility, whether just for practice or competing in a show. If you haven't ever tried it, you might want to consider it and see how much fun it is!

First, you have to learn all of the agility obstacles. There are jumps, hoops, a tire, a dog-walk, an A-frame, tunnels, a table, and weave poles. Now, most dogs don't have these things just laying around the house, so you have to find a trainer who has all of this equipment. Since my mom is a trainer, I HAVE to learn all of this stuff! It's a good thing that I really LOVE agility!

Let's start with the jumps. Most dogs know how to jump, so that's easy. But there are different kinds of jumps; single bar, double bar, triple bar, and jumps with wings (not the kind that you fly with!).

Next comes the hoops. If you know how to do the Hula Hoop, then these are a clinch. You don't even have to put the hoop around your hips. You only have to run through it.

The only tire I ever saw were the ones on my car. Remember,



when I was learning to drive for my mom? This one hangs on a frame and isn't even made of rubber. It's plastic and comes apart if you hit it. Who even heard of such a thing!

I suppose the dog-walk is named that because only dogs get to walk on it. No CATS or Humans. Some people call it plank, but I have never seen any water at the end of it. That's good, because I HATE water. It's a long, narrow board up high that you have to walk across. I am glad that I am not afraid of heights, and that I have small feet.

The A-frame is like climbing a mountain. I always put on my climbing shoes for this one. The view from the top is great, and it always drives your trainer nuts if

you stop there and look around! It's nice and wide, so the big dogs like it better than the dog-walk.

Tunnels are really fun, and when it is hot outside you could stop and take a rest in it where it's nice and cool. My mom would really be upset if I did that, so I have to shoot through it as fast as I can!

Now, why would anyone put a table on an agility course?! It's just a small, yellow, square table you get on for five seconds to show that you are under control while running the course. A good way to practice this at home is to hop up on the kitchen or dining room table. Be careful to do it when no one is looking.

Weave poles take a lot of rhythm to learn. Your front end has to go one way and your back end has to go the other way. All at the



same time! I just tell Alexa to play some funky music when my mom is gone and then dance away! I move my little body in weird ways. I think it's called, "Shake your (bleep)." Or, "Put your front end in and your back end out and shake it all about." You have to be old to remember that one!

I haven't gone to any shows lately because there haven't been any for the past year. And my mom seems to be running in slow motion these days. It's like watching an old-time movie! I am trying to find a way to speed her up, so I don't have to keep waiting for her to catch up. Maybe some vitamins or a cattle prod?!

Since she is so slow now, I am getting really good at distance work. That way, she can just stand in one spot and tell me where to go.

I do have a secret GPS, but don't tell her. If she gives me the wrong cue, then I just stop and tell her off! Once I get her straightened out, then we continue on having fun. It's a great way to have fun and spend time with your human.

~Sir Chase



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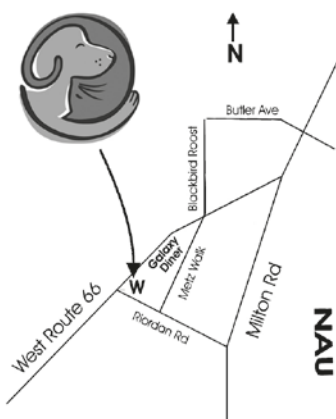
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Mammoth Lakes Dog Paradise

By Stacey Wittig



Mammoth Lakes dogcation is relaxing for dogs and their human companions. Photo courtesy Robson Hatsukami Morgan via Unsplash.

When sniffing out your next dogcation, don't overlook Mammoth Lakes in the Eastern Sierra Mountains of California. The place is pure dog paradise with lakes for swimming, outdoor decks with plenty of room for dog-accompanied patrons, and hiking trails galore. Of course, your four-legged traveling companion is sure to love all the forest fun.

The four-season mountain town is an eight-hour, 50-minute road trip from Flagstaff, with lots of dog-friendly places to stop along the way.

Situated in the Inyo National Forest, the town of Mammoth Lakes has worked together with the forest service to put together a comprehensive website that provides accurate information on over 100 local trails. The most challenging thing about hiking the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) is choosing between all the trails that led to lakes and waterfalls, something we don't get a lot of here in northern Arizona. Check out MLTS at mammothtrails.org.



Happy unleashed dogs on the trail to Emerald Lake in the Lake Basin backcountry.

We finally decided on the Lakes Basin backcountry, parking at Crystal Lake Trailhead and walking to breathtaking Lake George and Emerald Lake. While hiking, we came upon many happy off-leash dogs. Scott Quirsfeld of Eastside

K9 Avalanche Rescue based in Mammoth Lakes explains, "Leashes are required within the town limits of Mammoth Lakes, but once outside, you can take your pet off-leash as long as you maintain voice command. Just be sure to put your dog back on leash in highly populated areas like parking lots, trailheads, campsites, and picnic areas."

The local expert says, "Your dog will love running through miles of trails, but please be mindful that he or she does not disturb other hikers, dogs, or wildlife in all of the excitement. And as always, leave no trace. Pick up after your dog, and don't leave doggy bags on the trail."



Hiking at Devils Postpile National Monument at Mammoth Lakes, California.

One of the exceptions to that rule of thumb is Devils Postpile National Monument. Officials require your pup to be on a leash at the riverside park, which preserves unique 101-foot high geological structures. You can hike to the top of the unusual rock formations to view the caps of the hexagonal columns polished by glaciers, which disappeared thousands of years ago. Woof-worthy, for sure! Learn more about the fire and ice that shaped this park at nps.gov/depo.



Friendly pup at Mammoth Brewery beer garden.

Being a resort town, Mammoth Lakes offers a wide variety of restaurants, many of them with pet-friendly patios. We enjoyed the beer garden at Mammoth Brewery, where we ate fresh California cuisine and drank Golden Trout Kölsch and Mammoth Pilsner. At any one time, at least five doggie guests were lounging comfortably in the outdoor space. (mammothbrewingco.com)

You'll find plenty of dog-friendly hotels and resorts in Mammoth Lakes. We chose Mammoth Mountain Inn, where our two-bedroom condo with loft had a dining room, kitchen and plenty of room for dogs. Two dogs of any size are allowed with a \$50 per pooch fee. Sorry, no cats. (themammothmountaininn.com)



Magical Lake George offers opportunities to swim and play fetch.

The lively canine culture in Mammoth Lakes includes pet shops, a self-serve dog wash, a dog walking and adventure camp for dogs, and free bus rides. The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority welcomes well-behaved pets that are muzzled and leashed or in carriers aboard buses. (visitmammoth.com) Reviews.com listed Mammoth Lakes as a "Top 500 Places to Visit with Your Dog."

Stacey Wittig is a travel writer based near Flagstaff, Arizona. Get free tips and inspirational travel ideas at her acclaimed website, unstoppablestaceytravel.com.



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