

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

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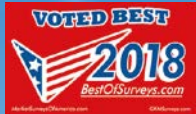
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FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

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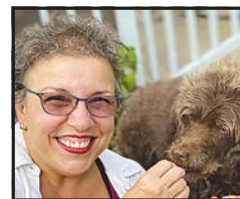
STAFF CONTRIBUTORS



Melissa Bowersock



Heidi Dahms Foster



Shari King



Jan Tomlinson



Stacey Wittig

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine



COVER DOG CONTEST

It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

- 1) Take a picture of your canine pal
- 2) Send your picture to info@reddogpublishing.net

Winner will receive:

- 1) A photo shoot with A Portrait Park by J in Prescott
- 2) 50 copies of Flagstaff-Sedona Dog
- 3) A personalized social media post congratulating your dog as the winner and an electronic copy of the printed cover

All entries are judged for the edition submitted..
You can enter for EVERY edition! One entry per dog, per edition.

**Deadline Dates - 3/31/22, 5/31/22, 7/31/22,
9/30/22, 11/30/22 and 1/31/23**



Queenie, Our Cover Dog

My name is Queenie Maureen Blakele.

Although I was born in Phoenix, I live in Prescott Valley with my family.

I am going to be one year old in late June.

My favorite brand of kibble is Merrick puppy food.

My favorite people food is foamed milk from the top of Mommy's coffee.

I have a soft lamb that is my favorite toy.

I love to follow mommy out front to the mailbox and see if there is something inside for me... like a new dress!

Indoors, I always sit on Mommy's lap, as it's the most comfortable place in the world!

My favorite nap spot is also on Mommy's lap, where I feel safe and warm!

Although I'm too young to worry about extra pounds, I keep in shape by playing with my big sister, Maisy, who is a Brittany Spaniel.

Which leads me to...my favorite canine pal is definitely my big sister, Maisy!

My perfect day is sleeping until nine, then waking up right next to my Mom and Dad, under the sheets.

Then I might go outside for a bit or two, get dressed in my beautiful clothes my Mommy buys for me, and run errands with Mommy.

Sitting in her lap in the car is my favorite indoor spot to be, and it's especially fun when she takes me into PetSmart, where I make new friends.

It's cuddle time on the bed when my Daddy gets home, and I leisurely play around until I pass out under the sheets around eight in the evening.

That would be my perfect day!



Tucker's Take

A Sheriff's Song

Well, the morning began in normal fashion with Keira, center of the bed, pressing her head against Mom's side, which is her way of asking, "Are you awake Mom?"

Mom of course answered with a firm, "Knock it off, Keira!" Which settled Keira's query with an answer in the positive.

Wee hours of morning (is there any other appropriate time?), twelve legs of fur hit the ground and circled and danced in all directions while serenaded with Mom's protestations and admonitions in a futile attempt to let Dad sleep for awhile longer.

Mom checked the weather and safety of the fenced-in yard before the three dancers were released to relieve themselves. Then a quick game of pack tag, and a race to the kitchen for breakfast.

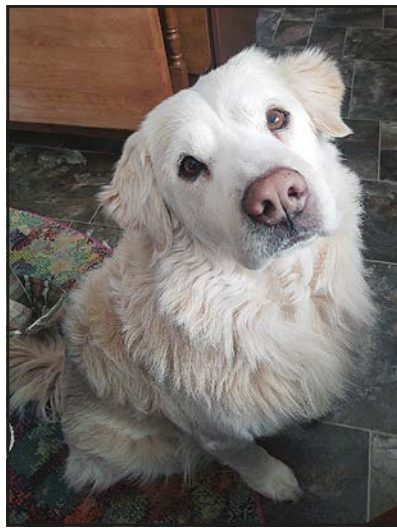
Hazel and I always rejoin Dad in bed to nap and digest. Keira is fifty-fifty whether to join us or stay with Mom. Today she stayed with Mom.

When Dad finally came to the surface this morning, as usual he found Hazel inches away, curled at Mom's pillow. A good and thorough belly rubbing ensued.

My position, as sheriff of the pack, is always at the foot of the bed. That way I can watch the door and possess the most protective position for my sleeping charges. This position is a sacrifice on my part, as I am out of Dad's reach for a good scratch and rub.

After a swing of Dad's long limbs, and a zombie-like march into the bathroom, Hazel and I were ready to begin our second start of our day with him. I always follow Dad and his first steaming cup of caffeine-enhanced beverage to the thinking chair. Today was no different, and I assumed my sitting, ready-for-duty posture in front of him.

After a gentle pat and a scratch behind the ears, I padded off to join Mom to watch the wild deer on the TV, where they were feeding from troughs filled with oats and walnuts and apples. I assumed my sploot position in the middle of the living room rug and waited for the TV grandpa to pull up and refill the long



line of troughs.

The deer scatter, but they return after he leaves. I'm always intrigued by how they move and gambol about. I wish I could run with them through the snow and woods.

A bit later, Dad sat down at the drafting table and fired up his smaller screen with the clickey buttons, and everything in the household moved in a normal way until just before lunch.

I was napping on couch which, if my eyes were open,

afforded me a clear view of Dad across the room. My eyes snapped open at an unusual, yet subtle sound that Dad made. He went from a close viewing of his screen, and then suddenly he fell back in his chair, removed his glasses, and made the odd sound again.

Something was wrong. Very wrong, and I could feel it fill the room. A quick check on Hazel and Keira showed me that I was the only one sensing a problem. I quietly and slowly returned to carpet level and came to the side of Dad's chair.

Sitting and looking up at him I could see he was in pain, but not from any physical injury. This was something deep and not visible to my eyes.

He reached absentmindedly with his hand to pat my head. I stayed sitting but swished my tail across the floor rapidly.

"Need to go outside, buddy?"

I stood and wagged harder in the affirmative. Dad responded the way I had trained him. He got up and asked Keira and Hazel if they were coming too.

They raised their heads from their light dreaming and stayed where they were sprawled out, as it was too close to lunch time. Staying in proximity of the kitchen was more important to them at the moment.

Once we were outside, Dad plopped down in a chair, sighed and rubbed his eyes. I took care of some business and returned to Dad. Back at his side, I stared up at him till he understood that I knew something was wrong.

Moments later he told me that he had just found out someone he loved and respected

greatly was seriously ill. Though they had never met, this gentle and wise man had spoken into Dad's life at different times and had affected him profoundly. Dad called him a "Guardian of Memories."

I stepped in closer and laid the weight of my head on Dad's leg. His hand drifted to my shoulders, where it stayed as he quoted his never-met friend and mentor.

"Back when people lived on the land, and worked the land...they had a look of wildness on old-fashioned faces...Especially in their eyes."

Now...we clamor after the latest fashion, and beauty has become a product...and a disguise.

There was a time when young men's hearts weren't as calloused...their hands were.

They would have been proudly dressed in the dust of the land.

Old men were called sir and handshakes still meant something. Ladies were still respected as miss or ma'am.

Hats were taken off at the door, and gentle smiles were found at the evening fires...and the deepest sense of belonging to the land was lived out in the beauty of the songs that were remembered around the hearth.

But, when poets no longer hear the song of the land...they have no notes to sing...and the children cease to learn who they are.

Then they grow up and refuse to dress in the dust of the land...and the ashes lay cold on the hearth.

So, my life's message is meant to light a gentle fire around the poetry and the lives that are actually hidden in your heart.

*The kind of poetry that your children's children will read to their children."**

Dad abruptly stood up. With a pat and a smile, he summoned me to follow him for lunch.

I can't say I understood most of what he said. I didn't need to. What I was aware of was the weight on Dad's heart lifted somewhat, and that's what I was made for. What I would do for him or Mom whenever needed.

Maybe, that is my poetry, and my song.

~Tucker Oso

*From Ray Hughes' lecture, *The Crowning Moment in Any Life*, March 2017.



Bear Gets Her Wings

by C.L. Dreves

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Hannah's Miracle

By Danny Sampson

"What do you want to pray about tonight, sweetheart?" I asked as I tucked my eight-year-old daughter into bed.

"I want to pray for my Boston," she said.

You see my daughter, Hannah, wanted a Boston Terrier in the worst way. She shopped the classified ads for months, trying to barter with a breeder. Her currency was an RV rental in exchange for a puppy.

I'm in the RV business, and it was 2010. The country was in a deep recession, and during recessions no one hurts more than an RV dealer. I certainly didn't want to spend a thousand dollars on a dog.

So my daughter shopped and failed to close a deal with a breeder. She prayed that night for a Boston Terrier, that it would be a pure breed, less than a year old, and healthy. I prayed that it would be potty trained and most important...free.

Three days had passed since that night with Hannah. It was July 5th, 2010, and one of my salespeople named Steve Hermansen showed up to work carrying...that's right, a young Boston Terrier! He was less than a year old, probably ten months according to our vet. He was a pure breed and potty trained.



While the dawn of realization overtook me, I asked Steve, "Where did you get it?"

"Well," he said, "this morning when I woke up, he was standing outside my arca-dia door looking at me. I don't even know how he got in my back yard".

He told me that he'd already gone to the vet to check for a chip and, finding none, he had driven his neighborhood looking for lost dog signs and hanging found-dog signs. As of yet, no one had claimed him. That is, except for Hannah.

I could feel the surge of emotion welling up in me. The hair standing at attention on the back of my neck. I was overcome, as only someone that has witnessed a miracle could understand.

The odds against this happening naturally are astronomical. No, this was Super-Natural. This was the Father showing kindness to a little girl. I felt so honored to be a witness to this most excellent event.

I grew up being taught that God is just waiting with a big stick to smack me with when I screwed up. As an adult, I know this is not true, but still to this day I struggle to remove that impression of Him from my head.

This precious gift from God Himself, to our family, only shows/proves that He is kind. And it proves that He listens to our prayers. For some reason, this time He decided to make a statement, loud and clear.

Of course I told everyone I know this story, and I joked that if they had any prayer requests, they could make an appointment with Hannah.

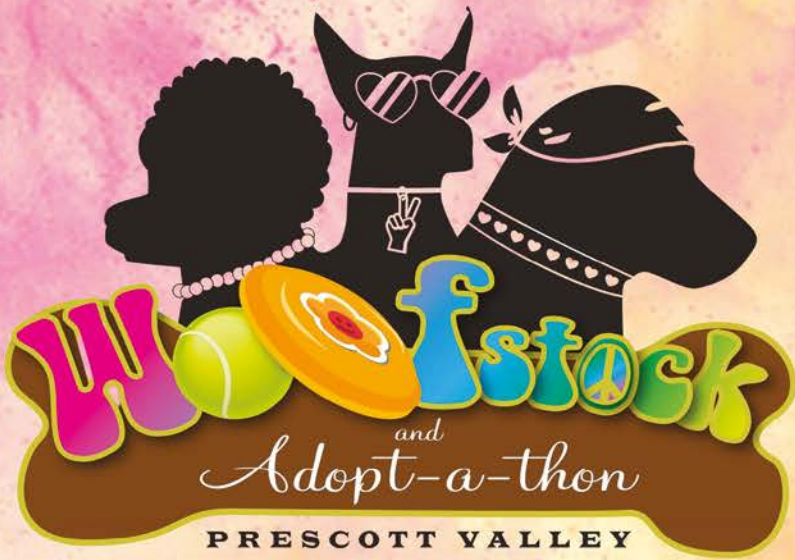
I wanted to name the dog Dill Weed because he's so quirky. But my daughter had naming rights and she named him Ollie. Till this day he sleeps with her on her bed, and she adores him.

If anyone were to ask Hannah or Steve about these events, they will retell the story exactly as I have, because it is 100% true.

My wife and I had a serious conversation with Hannah. We encouraged her to Never Forget! Never Forget what God has done here. Don't ever start thinking this was a coincidence. Remember this for what it is, a Miracle, or as we call it "Hannah's Miracle".



HANNAH'S MIRACLE



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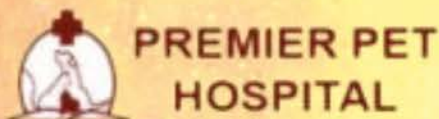
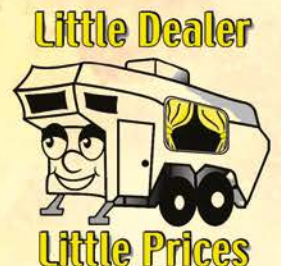
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I'm not an "until you get bored with me" dog.

I'm not an "until you find a girlfriend" dog.

I'm not an "until you have a baby" dog.

I'm not an "until you have to move" dog.

I'm not an "until you have no time" dog.

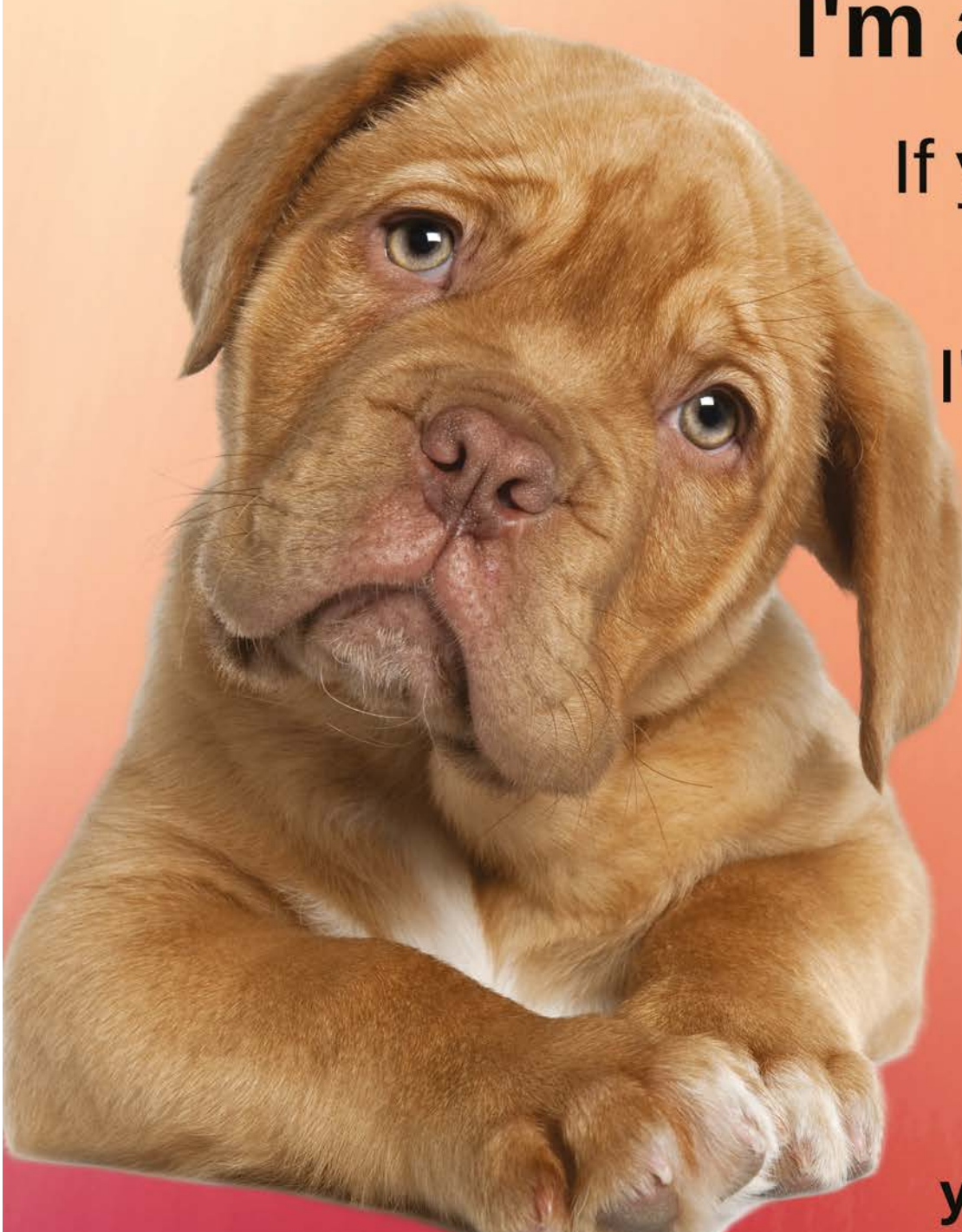
I'm not an "until you get a new puppy" dog.

I'm a forever dog.

If you can't give me
forever,

I'm not your dog.

IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE.



yavapaihumane.org

A Day in the Life of an Animal Control Officer

By Shari King

For anyone who loves animals, seeing any of them abused or abandoned is just heart breaking. Imagine if it was your job to daily investigate reports of neglect or the mistreatment of animals. Obviously, not a good career choice for the empathetic animal lover, but rather for a fearless advocate for the innocent voices of our furry friends.

Animal Control Officer Shannon Gray has been advocating for animals professionally for over 16 years. Gray is a supervisor and explained that in Northern Arizona, Animal Control works for law enforcement agencies.



ACO Shannon Gray and a fine feathered rescue.

For example, Prescott Animal Control Officers work for the Prescott Police Department. The Yavapai County Sheriffs have their own ACO's for the County. Prescott Valley has their own ACO's, and Chino has their own as well.

Gray said, "We all work well with each other, and we hold meetings between agencies every three months or so. That way we can discuss issues, ask for assistance, and compare experiences."

She has been working with animals since she was a teen. "I started working in pet stores as soon as I was old enough to work, and then in an animal hospital as a kennel tech. I also tried grooming, but found I wasn't very good at it! I had always wanted to be an Animal Control Officer (ACO). I love working with people, helping animals, and working in law enforcement."

Animal control officers work a normal work week and are not on call 24/7. If they are not on duty, a

police officer will respond to priority calls such as a dog loose in the roadway, an animal bite, or cruelty cases. But, ACOs do get called out after hours from time to time, especially for high-priority situations.

To be an ACO, the requirements are a High School diploma and a clean driving record. Applicants must pass an extensive background check and be physically able to do the job. Previous animal or law enforcement experience is a definite plus.

Camp Verde Animal Control Officer Earl Huff has all that, plus he served 17 years as a police officer with the Camp Verde Marshals Office before becoming a Camp Verde ACO.

When he retired from police work in 2012, he returned as a dispatcher but wasn't satisfied with the desk job, so he made a change. "I was just tired of sitting inside 10 hours a day, so I transferred to Animal Control," said Huff.

Officer Gray also said that outside animal experience is another definite plus, and Animal Control Officer Cara Hamer has that plus times two.

Hamer has been an animal control officer for 5 years. She served three years in San Diego County and has two years under her belt for the City Of Prescott.

She grew up in South Africa where her family was very involved in wildlife conservation, and it instilled in her a deep passion for animals and wildlife.

"I am a person with strong ethics and have always felt a need to help protect those with no voice," she shared. "This is not a job for the faint of heart, as we are the first responders when it comes to the welfare of our animals in our community. I have felt that this job was my calling, and I am fortunate to have landed here."

As a child, Hamer lived in a game reserve. "We had many wonderful and unique animals that passed through, from a meerkat, crowned crane, and even an orphaned lion cub once. My childhood compan-

ions were dogs, cats, horses, sheep, a donkey, lots of reptiles and fish."

She not only had experience with African animals, but also in rehabilitation and game capture methods.

She was the assistant training director of the AZTEC Schutzhund Club, a form of protection dog training. She elevated her experience with working dogs through training, seminars, and competing with her own dogs in high level competition.

She was also a guide at the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park for 6 years, and said, "All this has been helpful in my job and has built a large diversity in my knowledge of animals. I take any opportunity to share my passion for animals and wildlife."

Although wildlife issues are handled by Arizona Game and Fish, ACO's do work with the Arizona Game and Fish from time to time. Officer Gray said "If there are bear or mountain lion sightings, we will work together to make sure the animals are not



Camp Verde animal control truck with retired K9, Claymore, standing guard.

officials in the immediate area. I personally love these calls and have been lucky enough to see lots of our native animals up close."

All three officers agree that the most frequent calls Animal Control gets is barking complaints.

Officer Huff said, "Camp Verde does not have a barking-dog ordinance per se, so it is a nuisance noise ordinance.

"It is a complicated thing to enforce. Citizens are asked to call when the barking is occurring, not hours or days later. They can also record the barking but are still encouraged to call when it is occurring. The person calling would have to testify in court if the dog owner was cited. By calling when the barking is occurring and we are able to hear the barking, then the caller is not needed to testify."

Huff explained that the same situation applies to loose dogs.

"We get a lot of calls about their neighbor's dogs getting out and causing problems. A lot of these calls come hours after it has occurred or even the next day. The neighbors get fed up and ask us to cite them. Unfortunately, we have to see the animal out, or the person calling has to testify in court.

"Citations cannot be issued without probable cause and then proven beyond a reasonable doubt in court. The only way to satisfy these burdens is to have evidence or eye witness testimony. Many callers wish to be anonymous which unfortunately ties our hands on taking enforcement action."

Gray gave this advice for the common complaint of dogs barking.

"We do have a barking dog hotline in Prescott at 928-777-1364. But the best advice I have for our community regarding barking is to speak to your neighbor, and be



ACO Cara Hamer carefully handling a Great Horned Owl to transfer for medical care.

causing a threat to the public. Most recently, we worked with Game and Fish regarding a coyote who was actively biting people in a neighborhood. Luckily the coyote was not positive for rabies. We also work with the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary. We have brought in baby javelina, baby deer, and various birds for rehab."

Hamer added, "We are often asked to assist if they have no wildlife of-



ACO Cara Hamer with a Wolf-dog named Willow. Unfortunately, she was caught in a foot trap and lost a leg but is now well-protected and cared for.

tact with the dog owner. Sometimes the owner has no idea that Fluffy is at home barking all day while they are at work."

Animal Control officers work closely with Yavapai Humane Society, as they are the host facility for all the stray animals who end up in ACO hands.

"I have taken the Yavapai Humane Society everything from farm pigs to kittens and many dogs who have lost their way," said Gray. "As for the exotic pets, they often end up hanging out in our office until an owner is located."

"Yavapai Humane Society recently sent staff and vehicles including a horse trailer to help with a hoarding case where 156 dogs were rescued and found a soft landing. It takes a village for sure."

Hamer said this hoarding case turned out to be one of her most heartwarming events.

"My gut was telling me there was more to the well-hidden nightmare. It started with a barking complaint and grew into the unthinkable. Our persistence paid off with a total of 156 dogs and one pot belly pig being removed from horrible conditions."

"Those dogs now have homes and families who love them. Some are walking outside in the grass for the first time at 15 years old, in the fresh air and sunshine with people who love them."

"Huge thanks to Prescott Valley Animal control, Chino Valley Animal control, Yavapai County Animal control, and Yavapai Humane Society for listening to my last minute plea for assistance."

Hamer finished by saying, "I love it when people stop me and share their rescue stories. I get to revisit with some furry friends who had

no voice and desperately needed help, and with persistence and the help of a village. they are now free from a horrible situation."

Gray echoed that sentiment and said, "Anytime I can take an animal out of a bad situation and make its life better is always a good feeling."

YOUR DOG IS LOST... NOW WHAT?

1. Call the Lost & Found Department at Yavapai Humane Society or your nearest Humane Society and file a lost dog report.
2. Make flyers to put up around the neighborhood.
3. Post to the various Lost Pet Pages on FB ~ Including LPONA (Lost Pets of Northern Arizona), Lost Pets of Prescott, Lost Pets of Prescott Valley, Lost & Found Pets of Coconino & Yavapai County and Flagstaff Pets. Social Media is one of the fastest ways to share.
4. Put something outside your home or where they were last seen that has your scent or familiar scents from your home.
5. Print up smaller cards that you can take door to door to help let people know to keep an eye open for them.
6. Call your microchip company and make sure your contact information is up to date!



kind. Many times people have no idea they have a dog that barks when they are away from home. Bring a friendly face and open a line of communication and get to know your neighbors; it is a good thing.

"We are losing this in our technical, modern world, and many times your communication will be well received."

Hamer agrees and shared, "Please try to understand that dogs do bark at people walking by, other animals, and construction workers to name a few examples. This type of barking is not going to be a violation."

"If we feel the barking is not provoked, we will then attempt con-



ACO supervisor Shannon Gray isn't intimidated a bit by this enormous sow.

Airpark Animal Hospital



Dr. Celeste Flannery
515 Airpark Rd., Suite #103
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
(928) 649-8387 • www.AirparkAnimalHospital.com



These two brothers were pulled from Navajo Nation Animal Control in Fort Defiance. Their birthdate is likely around January 1, 2022, and they are in the process of becoming available for adoption.

BLC has microchipped these kids and begun their vaccination series. After their immune systems are prepped for handling parvo and distemper, they will go to the vet for neuter surgery, and soon after will be available for adoption.



These boys are crazy smart, are using the doggy door, and have already learned many commands.

For anyone who can handle cuteness overload, BLC will provide a YouTube video of their many talents with their adoption listings on Adoptapet, Petfinder, and our Facebook page.

For more information, please see our Facebook page: @bigluckclub1.



THE EVERY DOG MATTERS PROJECT

As the homeless crisis increases in our community, several local charities and businesses have partnered to ensure that the companion animals of those living without a roof over their heads are taken care of, too.

The Every Dog Matters Project also aids those dog owners who are financially unable to properly care for their pets. It brings together local non-profits and businesses to help dogs in need in the Verde Valley.

Sandy Brandvold, SedonaKind Board Member, stated, "We were thrilled when Linda Brecher, one of our members and a supporter of the Humane Society of Sedona, approached us with the idea for this project.

Since this project aligns with our Kindness Mission, we were happy to give our financial support. Brecher was inspired by the growing number of homeless and their pets on street corners in the community and tales from those community members who need help caring for their four-legged companions."

Our Doggie Blessing Bags were distributed at the Sedona Food Bank and through the Angie's House network in Cottonwood in March. These bags included items for the dogs as well as certificates to help ensure the animals stay with their owners.

Each bag was filled with over \$100 worth of items and vouchers such as a leash, collar, ID tag, dog brush, treats (normal and dental), collapsible water/food bowl, toy, doggie dental kit, dog shampoo, a hand crocheted "petghan" to curl up on, dog food, a Nylabone, and a pack of doggie pet wipes.

The Humane Society of Sedona's Executive Director, Jennifer Brehler said, "We are honored to be a part of this project and hope that by providing certificates for free microchipping and complimentary Sedona dog licenses that these items will help those four-legged companions who go missing to get back to their owners quickly.

"Individuals with Doggie Blessing Bags who live in the vicinity of the Angie's House distribution network will be able to take the certificates to the Verde Valley Humane Society and redeem them for free microchipping. We at the Humane Society of Sedona also provide larger



bags of dog or cat food or cans of moist food free of charge daily from 10am to 4pm. For us, it's all about keeping people and their pets together, and that's what this project does!"

This project would not be possible without the support of the Humane Society of Sedona, SedonaKind, PetSmart Sedona, Ace Hardware Sedona, Golden Bone Pet Products and Wellness Center, Nylabone, Marilyn DiPalma, and Linda and Alan Brecher.

ADOPTION EVENT AT THE SHELTER

From Monday, April 25 until Saturday, April 30 will host a special adoption event where all shelter animals six months and over will have only a \$50 adoption fee. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 928-282-4679. We recommend you view the adoptable animals at HumaneSocietyofSedona.org/adopt/ prior to visiting the Shelter at 2115 Shelby Drive in West Sedona.

THRIFTING SAVES ANIMALS

HSS is fortunate to have two very successful thrift stores currently generating 38% of the funds needed to support the care and re-homing of the animals at the shelter.

PawPrints Thrift in the Village of Oak Creek was started over 25 years ago by a handful of dedicated volunteers in a building affectionately called The Shack, which expanded and moved to a larger location in 1994. The store was so successful, it moved again eight years later to a newly constructed space at its current location on Highway 179 across from the Circle K.

Locals dubbed Pawprints the Neiman Marcus of Thrift Shops because of its quality offerings. So many donations arrived that HSS opened another store, Paws West, in 2012 next to Harkins Theater on Highway 89A in Sedona. It's been a huge success in supporting the Shelter since then.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers sort through hundreds of items each year that are donated by community members, and every penny generated goes directly back to helping the animals.

To schedule the thrift store truck to collect selected items in the local area, call PawPrints at 928-284-4635, or visit each store and donate items directly during business hours. You can visit both stores between 10am and 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday, and make a difference for local homeless animals by thrifting!



48 DOGGY BLESSING BAGS

By Linda Brecher



Have you ever stopped and talked to a homeless person with a dog? I have always wondered what they would wish to have for their four-legged pet and decided to stop and ask a few.

Their dog is the focus of care, love, and companionship. They would give up their own food as long as their dog is fed and healthy. The dogs I saw were in terrific shape and well cared for. I also received lots of doggy kisses.

What could I do to help? I decided to fill 48 Doggy Blessing Bags with the goodies they need besides food.

I am a member of Sedona Kind, and the board approved my endeavor

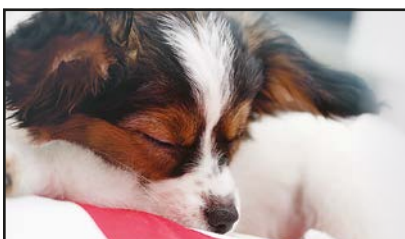


for their March project. Kindness to animals is as important as kindness to people.

The bags were filled with donations from various agencies, stores, people, and the budget approved by Sedona Kind. These items included: wipes, toothbrushes and tooth paste, brushes, collars, leashes, collapsible food bowls, dental sticks, sunscreen, treats, a certificate for a free ID tag, free chipping, free license, plush toy, a nylabone, bandanas, and a knitted small afghan.

Thanks to Sedona Kind, Angie's House, Humane Society of Sedona, Ace Hardware of Sedona, Golden Bone, Nylabone, and Marilyn DePalma for the knitting of the afghans. I am beyond excited that my dream is a reality and can't wait to see how this turns out.

The bags were distributed at the Sedona Food Bank (thank you Cathleen for letting me set up a table), and at Angie's House in Cottonwood in March. Flyers were distributed prior to these dates to alert the community.



"Rescued" doesn't mean damaged. It means humans have let them down.



Many people ask us, "Isn't it hard to work at the Humane Society?" Well, in all honesty...yes, sometimes it is.

Seeing some of the long-term dogs who get overlooked everyday because of their breed, their color, their age, or the fact they need to be the only animal in your home is probably the hardest part.

That, and seeing animals being returned after only a couple of months, days, or even hours because they were "too active", "too big", "they tried to escape" and even, "they threw up in the car on the way home."

The animals don't understand what they've done wrong and why they aren't wanted. They are confused, scared, and often feeling pretty defeated. It's heartbreaking to each and every one of us. Each of us would love to take them home ourselves, but we all have households full of animals that we've already adopted.

We're told by adopters every day that we are one of the best shelters they have ever been in. Even the couple who adopted our sweet Ella said they have traveled across the United States and lived in various places where they have been to shelters, and none compared to Yavapai Humane Society.

We are not the shelter you see in the ASPCA commercials. We are Yavapai Humane Society. A shelter that prides itself every single day

on our number one priority—our animals. Making sure they are taken care of medically, fed, walked, provided enrichment, helped with behavior issues and most importantly...loved by us!

Our cleaning protocols are impeccable, and it is just one of the reasons our animals remain healthy and safe. Every single employee walks dogs on a daily basis... that includes our Marketing & Development Team, our Finance Department, Clinic Staff, our Deputy Director, and our Executive Director.

Most days you can walk into the M&D office and find a dog just chilling, hanging out with us in a cozy bed, listening to music with us and being spoiled with extra treats! It's a great break for the dogs and in all honesty, it's a special treat for us.

It's been proven time and time again that animals help relieve stress and provide a calming presence to those around them. It is 100% true!

Life for animals in a shelter is not an ideal situation for any of them, and it's our job, mission, and honor to make sure they are taken care of with the highest standards.

Nothing makes us happier than seeing a true FOREVER family come together and to watch a dog walk out the door and jump in the car with their new best friends, knowing they are going home sweet home! They just need a chance to adjust to new surroundings, smells, people, routines, and being home.

You can't expect to bring a dog home from a shelter and have it be a Hallmark movie. It's like being in a new school or job for you. You need time to learn where the bath-

room is, where do you eat your lunch, what's the schedule for different things and finding your way around the building. It's frustrating for you and for them, but eventually you get settled in just like they will when given the chance.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of doing what we love...caring for and finding homes for thousands of homeless animals in Yavapai County. We are honored to be a part of this amazing pet loving community that continues to support us and our mission. Thank you all!

SHELTER NEEDS

High Country Humane has been in a puppy crisis these past few months. The inflow of orphaned, abandoned, and sick puppies never stopped. At one point we had every room full of puppies or moms & babies that we had to turn one of our cat rooms into another puppy room.

Fosters make rescue possible. Without the foster families that stepped up to take puppies home, we would have run out of space for new strays. We are mentally preparing for the summer months that will be here soon enough. And we will be in need of more foster families.

If you live within one hour of our shelter, you can foster! Sign up on our website: Foster - High Country Humane to get started. ALL medical & ALL supplies are provided during the foster period. AND fosters, get first dibs on adoption if they fall in love! Please help us continue to save lives.

Donations, both in kind and monetary, always help keep us afloat. The generosity of our community near and far has been overwhelming to say the least. With the high volume of animals we care for, we are always running low on supplies, food, etc.

If you are reading this and can't foster or adopt, donating is a HUGE way to help us out! You can donate online using our website (High-CountryHumane.org) or donate

items we need from our Amazon Wishlist.

Whether it's \$5 or one toy, it means the world to us that you want to donate. It is also tax deductible!

OUR EVENTS

We're sponsoring onsite Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics on April 2, April 16, May 7, and May 21 from 8am to 10am. No appointments are necessary. More info: highcountryhumane.org/vaccination-clinic/

Volunteering is rewarding and extremely beneficial to our animals, so please consider joining our team today! We have Volunteer Orientations every week. More info: highcountryhumane.org/volunteer-opportunities

We have Adoption Events at the Flagstaff Petsmart, Flagstaff Mall, Bookman's, and more! For ongoing dates and times, please keep an eye on our Events page at Facebook ([tinyurl.com/4sf3djzm](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/4sf3djzm)), and on our website Calendar at: highcountryhumane.org/calendar/

Please consider donating to our Pet Food Bank during our shelter's open house open hours (Mon-Sun 11a-5p). Our next food-bank distributions are on March 23 and May 28 from 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, or to download a pet food bank enrollment form, please visit: highcountryhumane.org/pet-food-bank/

Follow us on social media to see everything we have going on. We post adoptable animals, adoption success stories, donation requests, events, and more!

Facebook: @High Country Humane
Instagram (photos & videos): @highcountryhumane

High Country Humane
11665 North US Highway 89,
Flagstaff
Hours: Mon-Sun 11a-5p
Phone: 928-526-0742

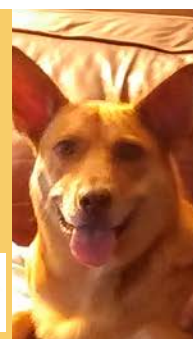
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RESCUE TALES





VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Northern Arizona Service Dogs is currently in need of qualified: Puppy Raisers (experience highly preferred/applications and process available upon request): Our foster parents raise our puppies in a safe home environment where they are provided positive socialization opportunities, taken to weekly obedience classes, receive daily positive reinforcement training, and given lots of love and attention!

Researchers: We need individuals with extra time on their hands

to provide additional research into likely areas of financial support for general funding/sponsorship as well as possible resources for our applicants.

Grant Writers (creative writers too!): Experienced grant writers are highly sought after especially in the nonprofit world. With the information we provide we need for you to create a solid, memorable grant!

Brainstormer: Sometimes we just need someone to brainstorm with! We are creative, you are creative, and we'd love to sit down with you are let our creativity flow! NAZSD is here to help you too! Contact us and let us know how we can assist. Together we can make a significant difference!

We can be reached via email: info@northernazservicedogs.com
Attn: Renae. To speak with someone about your interest please call: 928-593-9075



YAVAPAI COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE

Most people don't realize how many hours and miles our Search and Rescue teams put in. The stats below reflect just the time that the Yavapai County Search and Rescue K-9 team put in for 2021.

6,130 hours: That's how much time we spent on training and search missions. We're on call 24/7 and have 8 to 10 trainings and respond to 2 search missions a month.

41,707 miles: That's how far we've traveled for search missions, trainings, and community events.

207 Certifications: Members train in navigation, map and compass,

search strategy, medical skills, wilderness survival, rescue operations, fitness test, let alone trainings in essential K-9 handling skills.

Our members are certified through Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Search and Rescue Coordinators Association (ASARCA) and national agency such as National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR).

0\$ cost to the public: Yavapai County Search and Rescue members are unpaid professionals. We rely on donations and grants in order to operate, purchase essential equipment, and complete certifications.

Every donation from the public helps go along way and helps us continue our mission to bring the missing home.

The other 5 Yavapai County Search and Rescue teams (Back Country, 4x4, OHV, Southern and Fire Observers) have similar numbers.

Learn more at: <http://ycsrt.org/>

RESCUE TALES



BE A HERO!

Rescue
Donate
Volunteer



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Book Review: Fun, Educational Reads for Very Young Children

By Heidi Dahms Foster, with help from Grandma Lisa and Little Evie



One of the best ways to foster a love of reading in your child is to actually read to them. It not only gives you quality time with your child, but allows for some fun ways to teach life's lessons. Leland P. Gamson's *Why Can't Dogs Talk?* and *Why Do Dogs Bark?* are two of those books.

For this review, I enlisted the services of a friend who is a loving grandma (and a school librarian) to several active, bright kiddos. one of

the kiddos loves to be read to.

As soon as I showed Evie the books, she settled right in to hear the stories. That she loves dogs was a bonus.

Through both stories, there were lots of giggles and wide-eyed interest, but what also emerged were several life lessons with a Godly perspective, which Grandma took advantage of.

Some of those included a gentle education about why dogs do what they do, such as barking, and lessons on misbehavior that come across with laughter and fun.

The two books we reviewed were illustrated by Karen Camden Welsh and Alyssa L. Tanner. Evie loved the colorful pictures that highlighted the stories.

These books are best for very young children, with their presentation enhanced by an animated adult reading and discussing the stories

with them. Gamson's books would make a great collection for youngsters just learning to enjoy books.

Leland P. Gamson, a U.S. Army veteran and Veterans Administration retiree, has written other books about animals - *Little Red Riding*

Wolf, The Irish Setter is Mailing a Letter, and just to be fair, *If Your Cat Were a Human*. Others have messages about a Passover Lamb, and the donkey that carried Jesus.

All of Gamson's books are available on Amazon.

BOOK REVIEW: FUN, EDUCATIONAL READS FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN



ARCHER: A 1-year-old Australian Shepherd/terrier mix, about 58 pounds. He is sweet, sensitive, affectionate doggie who is all about the snuggles and kisses. Loves tennis balls and walks. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



HUNTER: A 2-year-old heeler mix with a wonderfully unique face and smile to match. He's a very friendly guy who loves a good game of fetch as well as lounging on the couch with his family. Highcountryhumane.org/adopt-dog



BENJI: A 4-year-old Pomeranian mix. He weighs in at 13 pounds. He loves walks, playing with tennis balls, and hanging out with the guys as he seems to prefer men. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



KUMA: A 75 pound Great Pyrenees female. She is a happy, silly, active lady who is playful and fun. She is affectionate and loyal. She would be a great hiking buddy! Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



BLUEBERRY: A 40 pound, 2-year-old female Boxer mix. Blueberry is a smart, active girl who also loves to snuggle. She is very smart and food motivated and will do well with training. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



LOCKS: A 1-year-old Australian Cattle dog (red heeler). He is a charming fellow, high in energy, but also affectionate and cuddly. He is very smart, so training him will be fast and easy. Highcountryhumane.org/adopt-dog



CEDRIC: A 3-month-old male black and silver terrier puppy with the cutest white toes! He is a sweet cuddle puppy, and very smart. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



MUDDY BUDDY: A Labrador and terrier mix, this little girl is charming with her little whiskered face and loving personality. She walks well on a leash and is very smart. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



COLBY JACK: A Beagle and Whippet mix, about 30 pounds. He's ready for an active family as he's energetic, friendly, fun and loves to play. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



TIMMY: A happy, active German Shepherd/Labrador mix, this little guy is the cutest puppy ever. He will be about 45 pounds when full grown, and he will be very smart! Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



EVANDER: An eye-catching pit bull terrier, 2 years old. He is smart, affectionate, and just loves people. He would also love having a yard, but having a family is more important to him. Highcountryhumane.org/adopt-dog



ZELDA: A 2-year-old female Chinese Shar-Pei mix. She is partially house-trained. For more information please call the Coconino Humane Association. 928-526-1076



FALCOR: A handsome 2-month-old Australian Shepherd mix. He is white and tan and quite charming. For further information please call the Coconino Humane Association. Cononino Humane Association. 928-526-1076



ZIBU: This is a sweet 7-month-old lady, white with black accents. She is very friendly and affectionate, and is so eager to have her own family to love and to take her on adventures. High Country Humane 928-526-0742

Max

By Joseph Wilson. Illustration by Kerry Hyatt.

Old Mrs. Salipante thought she recognized the young woman in scrubs, with her hand on a tree in front of her apartment. *That looks like my downstairs neighbor, Anne Morrow. She must have finished her shift. I wonder if she's okay?*

As Mrs. Salipante approached, it turned out that it was indeed her downstairs neighbor Anne, a single mother of a ten-year-old girl, Sally. As Mrs. Salipante drew alongside, she asked, "Are you alright, dear?"

Without turning her head, Anne shook her head. "No."

"What's the matter, dear?" asked Mrs. Salipante.

"Max is gone," was all Anne could muster.

Anne had lived in the first-floor unit of a row house below Mrs. Salipante for about eight years. Shortly after moving in, Anne had gone to a local shelter and picked up a rescue dog for protection and companionship. The rescue was medium sized, about thirty pounds. He looked to have no particular lineage, but the vet thought he was mostly Sheltie with a smattering of German Shepherd.

And a whole lot of mischief, Anne thought.

Max had a very serious face, seemingly contradicted by his mirthful ears. One up. One down.

Max fit right into the working-class Cicero neighborhood. Anne, Sally, and Max patrolled

the neighborhood every day. Past the row houses, the park, store fronts and the "L" – prominently tagged by the Latin Kings. Anne didn't worry about Sally going to the store by herself as long as Max tagged along.

Max was loyal and patient. He would take up his sidewalk observation post on the window-seat every day and watch for Sally to come home from school. Like clockwork, he was always there to greet Sally even if Anne was away working.

Anne and Max would watch TV together, especially when popcorn was involved. Max would sit beside Anne on the couch and firmly believed in sharing. Like a dance move, Max would turn his head towards Anne as she reached into the bowl. One for you, one for me....

Anne, Sally, and Max were a happy family. Until that afternoon by the tree when Anne told Mrs. Salipante that Max had passed away.

When Anne came home from work the next evening, there was a lasagna, covered with tin foil and still warm, waiting at her doorstep.

That was it. Anne had been thoroughly professional at work, keeping her emotions bottled up her entire shift. But feeling the warmth of Mrs. Salipante's thoughtfulness, and the warmth of the lasagna in her hands, reminded Anne of Max leaning into her on the couch. It was too much. She lost it. She missed Max's company. It was painful.

Sally was staying over at a friend's house, so Anne was home alone. She dished herself a piece of Mrs. Salipante's famous lasagna, poured a glass of Chianti, turned on the TV, and sat down on the couch. She couldn't focus on whatever movie was on. She was just sad and lonely.

A warm bath with a book and the Chianti seemed a good idea. She was physically and emotionally drained.

That night, she dreamt about Max. He was lying on "his" side of the bed. Anne could feel him sit up. So she sat up, and they stared at each other for a while. Then Anne said, "I miss you, Max."

I miss you too, telepathed Max. But I don't want you to be sad. When you think of me, I know and come running. Just think of me, and I'll be there.

Anne said, "Thanks, that's nice of you to say, or whatever it is you're doing. What are you doing?"

I live in your memory now. Forever. No arthritis. No milky eyes. I share a cloud with Mrs. Salipante's Beagle, Romeo. We keep an eye on you all from up here. And we know when you think of us, and come running.

The next morning, while waiting for the bus to go to work, Anne happened to look up. It was a beautiful blue-sky morning with cotton ball cumulus clouds.

There was one cloud in particular that drew her attention. There was something oddly familiar about it. As she stared, it suddenly came into focus.

It was clearly Max. One ear up. One ear down.



MAX

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HUMANESOCIETYOFSEDONA.ORG/FASHIONSHOW/



BETHANY: A sweet, tiny girl only 2 months old. She is white with deep orange spots along her back, and she is just lovely, playful, and cuddly. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



MRS. BOJANGLES: Callie, to her friends. A 2yo female Torbie (tabby stripes and tortoiseshell colors) with amazing green eyes! She is rare, sweet, loving, and in need of her own person. Sedona Humane 928-282-8572



BROOKLYN: This 10.5-year-old gal is laidback and affectionate. The perfect senior kitty, but we think no one has adopted her yet because she is diabetic. She has been with us over 200 days. highcountryhumane.org/adopt-cats-2



PATRICK: A black-and-white Tuxedo male with big green eyes, only 4 months old. He is charming, curious, affectionate and will be a joy to have around. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



CALYPSO: A lovely brown tabby female tabby with big green eyes, and she has tan “eyeliner” around those eyes. She is a real sweetheart who loves to cuddle and “make biscuits.” Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



PRINCESS: A dainty little brown tabby with white accents. She is 6 years old, gentle, affectionate, and misses having her own home and people. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



DEJA: A cute little domestic shorthair Tuxedo male with big golden eyes and very striking white whiskers. He is very affectionate and playful. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



RICE CAKE: This beautiful girl is a medium hair calico w/big gold eyes, found during a recent snowstorm. She is super sweet, playful, and loves people. High Country Humane highcountryhumane.org/adopt-cats-2



HERMAN: Black house panther with big golden eyes. 15 years old, wants to cuddle up with a family again. Loves sunny spots & hanging out next to you on the couch. High Country Humane highcountryhumane.org/adopt-cats-2



SHANGHAI: A beautiful Seal Point Siamese with startlingly blue eyes. Shanghai loves playing chase and climbing to high spots to find hiding spots. She enjoys playing with small cat toys. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



JERRY: A handsome young Seal Point fellow with a Balinese look to him. He has lovely blue eyes and a fluffy medium-hair coat. He is friendly, playful, and curious. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



SPOT: A 4-year-old male. He is very cute and slightly chubby. Spot is a very mellow guy but prefers to be an only kitty. His markings are gorgeous and he’s ready to be showered with love and adoration! Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



MELISSA: A 5-year-old female tortoiseshell. She is a very pretty and affectionate, she also loves to play. She is declawed and needs to be an only kitty. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



TONTO: Welcome everyone, to the joy that is TONTO! He is a 2-year-old gray tabby with big golden eyes and is a super rad kitty, full of fun, adventures & lovies. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

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Hiking with Lily: Puppy Trails

By Melissa Bowersock

Many of you may remember my hiking adventures with my Aire-dale, Annie, and her ultimate tragic passing. I'm guessing most of you out there know the pain of a dog-shaped hole in your heart.

Some people, when they reach that inevitable end, vow never to get another dog so they never have to know that pain again. I, however, have always believed that those weeks and months of grief are far outweighed by the years of love that dog has given me.

Ergo, enter Lily.

Lily is a soft-coated Wheaten Terrier. SCWTs are a smaller terrier, bred to be multi-talented Irish farm dogs: they kill vermin, herd sheep, and act as guard dogs.

Lily shouldn't get much more than 30 pounds at maturity, a much easier weight to handle than Annie's 80 pounds. If, God forbid, we should run into similar health issues again, we want to be able to carry her to wherever she needs to go.

We got Lily when she was three months old, just past the space-cadet age of puppies, and started her on the trails right away. We had an old, small harness from when Annie was a puppy, and used that on Lily, but she pulled like a sled dog on every outing.



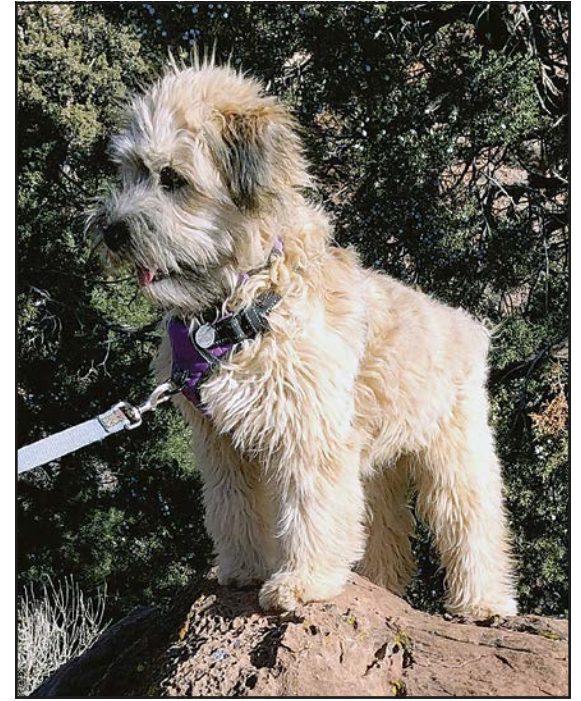
Anyone who's had a puppy can probably remember those days. The good news was that the harness didn't choke her like her collar might have, but the bad news was it only had a top ring on the back, and Lily just leaned into the taut leash. Many times, I felt like she might pull my arm out of its socket. When I took her out for beginning training in heeling, I shortened the leash like a traffic lead, but Lily still pulled so much, she ended up walking on her back legs, her front legs up in the air.

I got her a new harness, one with a ring on the back and a ring on the front and attaching the leash to

the front ring made a huge difference on the very first walk.

She still pulled, but not as much, and she was much more manageable. She even just walks sometimes! We make a little more progress every day, and already walks are much more enjoyable.

Lily loves the trails like Annie did. She would just go, go, go until her legs gave out if we let her. One thing we noticed immediately was that when a strange dog approached, Lily would neither rush the dog nor cower, and she wouldn't bark; she would simply stand (or sit) and watch as the dog approached.



Lily doesn't jump up on them, and it's working really well.

She's so adorable that people always want to pet her, but without this trick, she'd be climbing their legs and arms and shredding them with her teeth and claws.

The training, of course, will go on, but Lily is already becoming a great trail dog. She's never met a rock she couldn't climb, and she wants to investigate EVERYthing. She's learning about cactus without getting a snootful of stickers, so that's progress.

She knows sit, stay, come, and leave it, and of course already knows the universal symbol for treats: a hand in a pocket. She's a tough little scrapper and will go anywhere we want to go without complaint.

No dog could ever replace Annie, and we don't expect Lily to, but she's already establishing her own personality and creating her own place in our home and our hearts. We fully expect that Lily will accompany us on many adventures over many years.



Once they made contact and Lily knew the dog was friendly, then she would get excited and go into hyper-play mode.

Unfortunately, she would often get so excited she would LEAP to the end of the leash and when she reached full extension, would fall over backward on the ground.

We were worried she would hurt herself, but I remembered a tip I'd read about somewhere, and we've started standing on the leash when a dog approaches so that Lily only has about 6-8 inches of play. This way, she can greet the dog and get excited without hurting herself.

We're using the same technique when people approach so that

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Chase's Corner: Being A Canine Athlete

By Chase and Jan Tomlinson

Being a canine athlete is a full-time job! My events are agility and obedience, which require that I be in tip-top condition. And, now that I am getting older, I really need to have a good conditioning program. I think it is time for me to hire my own conditioning coach, as my mom is so busy these days with teaching and other things.

Agility requires that I run, jump, climb, and get my body to go side-to-side through the weave poles. So, I need exercises that give me lots of breath for running. (I notice that my mom seems to be huffing and puffing after we finish a run, so she should also be doing these exercises!) Doing short jogs are good to develop good breathing.

For jumping, I need to have strong back legs. My mom makes me do this thing on a disc. I have to put my front paws on the disc and then move around it with my back legs in both directions. I am much better going clockwise than I am going counter-clockwise! I guess that's because my wristwatch always goes clockwise! I love that exercise, and I am really good at it.

Climbing is a different matter. I have to be really strong with all of my body and also make sure I have my climb-

ing boots on, so I can get a good grip up and down the steep hill.

Getting my body to go sideways through the weave poles requires practicing and conditioning my front legs to go one way and my back legs to go the opposite way. Sometimes I play hopscotch to practice that. You have to make sure to hop on a diagonal though.

I have to tell you a story about all of this. Several weeks ago, I was practicing agility with my mom, and she made me do an exercise over and over again. I showed her!

That night, I really started to limp on my RIGHT front. She really felt sorry for me, so I got lots of attention, treats, and a wonderful R&R for the rest of the week.

Then I decided to stop limping and get back to having some fun, so, we ran in our agility fun run, but only put the jumps at 8" instead of 12". That was so easy, but then I decided that limping worked so well before that I started limping on my LEFT front this time.

Now my plan was foiled, as she got serious and took me to the vet. Oh, No! I don't like to go to the animal hospital!

The vet cranked around on both of my shoulders and legs, and then I had to



have an X-ray. She said my shoulders and elbows were perfect, but that I had a pinched nerve in my neck.

I really messed up this time, so no more faking it!

My mom has a student who does acupuncture, Reiki, and massage, so she called him to see if he would give me a treatment.

Now, that was more like it. It was like going to the spa! There was music, relaxing smells, and all of this nice massage. It really did the trick because I'm back to running agility again and

haven't limped since. It was so nice going to the spa, that I signed up for another session. That will teach my mom not to overwork me!

As far as obedience conditioning, it's much easier. I only have to walk around the ring, run out to get my dumbbell, do two jumps, and then just do my calisthenics – oh, those are my sit, down and stand. I still need to be in good condition to do my obedience exercises in addition to my agility events.

I always make sure to warm up before I go into the ring. I do stretches, bend my body, do some jumps, and do some heeling with my mom. I need to get her to do the same things (maybe not the jumps) because sometimes she walks funny when we get into the ring.

Keeping in good condition is very important, and doing some warm-up exercises before you do your activity is also important. After you run in agility, you should also cool down. Walk around for a few minutes to let your muscles recover and to get your breathing back to normal.

I hope you tell your mom how to do these things so you will be able to be safe and have fun in your activities.

~Sir Chase

CHASE'S CORNER: BEING A CANINE ATHLETE

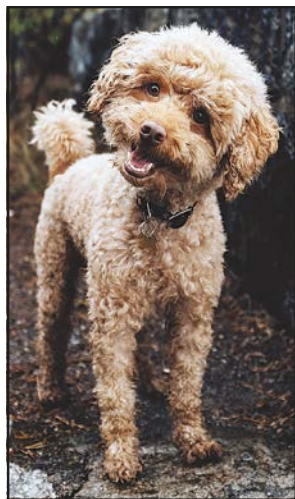
Rescue Resources

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

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Travel with Your Pet: Unleash Your Inner Rock Star in Quartzsite

By Stacey Wittig



Rockhound by Fredrik Öhlander on Unsplash.

So you wanna be a rock star? If the type of rock you're talking about includes quartz crystals, obsidian, and fire agate, then Quartzsite, Arizona, is the place to go!

Known as "The Rock Capital of the World," Quartzsite boasts a legacy of gold, quartz crystal, and mercury mining.

So paw-ty on!

What better place for you and your four-legged traveling companion to start rockhounding? Search for crystals in the great outdoors or nose around Quartzsite's famous rock and gem shows for the most unusual specimens.

Your furry friend is welcome at the gem shows, swap meets, and tent shows, and you'll meet lots of other doggie travelers at Quartzsite's fun events. In addition, the town is the winter nesting ground for thousands of "Snowbirds" who flock to the area for its RV parks, dispersed camping areas, and over 1,000 miles of BLM designated off-road vehicle (OHV) trails.



Snowbirds at Quartzsite RV Show, by Stacey Wittig.

You and your pooch can get outdoors and go rockhounding at Crystal Hill in the nearby Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. Crystal Hill is the only area within the refuge where recreational rock or mineral collecting is permitted.

Sniff around the washes and the rocky slopes for quartz, quartz crystals, tourmaline, and

pyrite. Be aware that rock or mineral collection is limited to exposed and materials collectible without using tools, including metal detectors. Digging is prohibited, of course. Rock collection is limited to ten specimens or ten pounds. Get details and directions at tinyurl.com/4r282zp6.

Enjoy the outdoors with an excursion to the mysterious Blythe Intaglios just on the other side of the Colorado River from Quartzsite in California. Giant figures depicting humans, animals and spirals were scraped into the surface layer of desert-varnished pebbles and rocks.



Blythe Intaglios by Rsfmlayson via Wikipedia.

Although Native people of the area have known of the sacred sites for generations, the forms were "lost" to European eyes. Lost until the 1930s when a pilot saw the enormous figures from above. Get directions at tinyurl.com/yc2jshuy.

But this desert town is not only famous for rocks. You'll soon discover that townies are crazy about camels. The camel motif greets you on the town welcome signs, and before long, you'll be taking selfies with your pet at all the large or life-sized camel displays set up around the former mining community. So what's with the camel craze?

You see, in the mid-1800s, the US Army experimented with camels as pack animals.

When Edward Fitzgerald Beale was awarded a contract to build a wagon road from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Fort Defiance, New Mexico Territory, to the Colorado River, he was required, although reluctant, to use the Army camels. To Beale's surprise, camels proved their superiority to horses and mules in the desert and barren portions of the US interior,



Hi Jolly Monument in Quartzsite, by Stacey Wittig.

packing 700-pound loads at a steady pace.

The lead camel driver for US Army Camel Corps Experiment was Hi Jolly (Hadiji Ali), who became a living legend after the success of the roadwork. Beale's Wagon Road became part of the Transcontinental Railroad, Route 66 and I-40.

Hi Jolly lived in Quartzite after running a camel freight service between the Colorado River and mining operations to the east. You and your sweet pup would be remiss if you didn't visit his tomb and the monument to his service in the Quartzsite cemetery.

If you and Fido prefer to avoid crowds, now is the best time to visit Quartzsite. April daily highs in Quartzsite fluctuate from 82°F to 90°F.

Most people stay during January and February to take in the rock and gem shows, RV swaps, and the Hi Jolly Daze Parade. Note your calendar now, so you don't miss these entertaining pet-friendly events in 2023.

Quartzsite is located 17 miles east of the Colorado River on I-10, 260 miles from Flagstaff.



Desert camping with Gus, by Stacey Wittig.

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