

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

Also Serving Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Jerome, & NAZ

February-March 2024
FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



**Verde Valley
Paws for a Cause**

Give Peace a Chance

Muzzles Full of Snow

TO A GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS

Introducing Our Cover Dog ~ Casey

*When I look into the eyes of an animal,
I do not see an animal.
I see a living being. I see a friend.
I feel a soul.*



Photo of Mitchell,
now Mickey,
adopted from YHS
December 2023,
by Candi Carroll.

yavapaihumane.org



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FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

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Flagstaff-Sedona Dog was established in August of 2011 and is a nonpartisan publication published bimonthly in Feb/Mar; Apr/May; Jun/Jul; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov; and Dec/Jan by Red Dog Publishing LLC. Entire contents copyright 2024 by Flagstaff-Sedona Dog. Layout and design by Kim Prosser, Graphics Manager.



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COVER DOG PHOTO CONTEST



It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

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

Please include your name, dog's name, address and phone with your entry. Entries without owners info will not be accepted.

Winner will receive:

- 1) A \$50. Gift Card
- 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, 5/31, 7/31, 9/30, 11/30 and 1/31



Casey, Our Cover Dog

Name: My Dad is a funny guy, so my given name is Casey Bones.

Hometown: I live with my hooman parents near the Grand Canyon. What a great place!

Age: Five

Favorite brand of kibble: Any beefy, crunchy stuff will do, but I like Victor best.

Favorite people food: I must admit hotdog buns are my favorite. What's better is to have a hidden piece of hotdog inside.

Favorite toy: My favorite toy is my Dad. We play together every day. Sometimes it even gets spirited—or so says Mom.

Favorite outdoor activity: My favorite outdoor activity is run, run, run, then some fetch, then run, run, run some more.

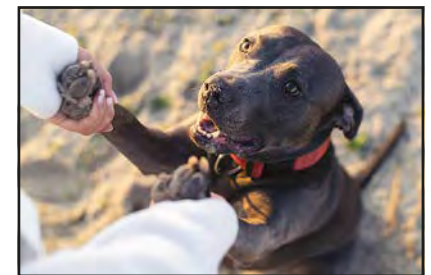
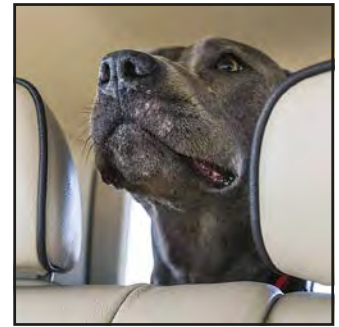
Favorite indoor activity: I enjoy helping Mom in the kitchen (hoping for secret bites), and napping.

Favorite nap spot: My favorite nap spot is at my Mom's feet, or next to her on the couch.

Fitness regimen: My regimen includes running, hiking, swimming, and the occasional walk downtown.

Describe your perfect canine pal: First, they would have to be fast. I would hope they would be ready to run at any second. We could run and run and run all day.

Describe your perfect day: My perfect day would include a big beefy breakfast, a romp with Dad before our Run, TWO hotdog buns upon our return, laydown and nap, then get up to do it all again in the afternoon.



Tucker's Take

Plight of the Intruder

EDITORS NOTE: Tucker has taken a ski vacation, and Hazel (Prescott Dog Magazine's spokesdog), has agreed to step in and introduce a character who is a new member of Tucker's pack.

NARRATOR: Picture, if you will, a serene and quiet living room. Three languid canines stretched out at various angles, lulled to sleep by the hum of fan and its waves of cooling air. Nearly forgotten, during their intermittent adventures in dreams, was the soon return of their Pack Leaders.

On any other southwest summer day of errands, the faint sound of keys at the front door would rouse from slumber our current subjects of observation. But that would be any other day. Today they will wake to find themselves in the Sudden Plight Zone.

[A distant jingle of collar-ring-against-leash-clip enters Hazel's ever alert ears. But the dreaming brain triggered the keys-in-lock response in Hazel's legs and muscles to send her to the front door. Two companion retrievers rouse and respond in hot pursuit.]

HAZEL: Wait! No, not the front door!

[Hazel-Brain, awake now, redirects]

HAZEL: Backyard, Backyard....

[Three mostly alert, yet confused four-leggeds try a collective u-turn at high speed, now heading for the patio door and spurred into ever higher gear.]

The voices of Mom and Dad, and more jingling sounds, are now heard clearly.

At the unyielding glass of the patio door, twelve legs skid to a stop, and three pairs of eyes lock on Mom and Dad, who didn't come through the front door this time.

Those eyes followed down from Mom's hand, and down the length of the leash in her hand to a strange, black four-legged form actively exploring THEIR backyard.]

HAZEL: No, no, no... I don't believe it.

TUCKER: Hmmmm....



Prudence

KEIRA: Move over Tuck! I can't see... What is THAT??!

[Hazel, having traveled extensively with Dad in the past, had met a lot of different breeds of dogs. She studied this new intruder in her backyard while absent-mindedly pawing at the back door.]

TUCKER: What do you think, Haze?

HAZEL: Well ... Maybe a Chi-Weiler ... Possibly a Dober-HuaHua ... Or it could be....

ber-HuaHua ... Or it could be....

KEIRA: A Rez dog!

HAZEL: Don't be silly Keira. There's no way that....

TUCKER: Pointed ears. Long sleek body. Slightly curled up, unadorned tail. Long, thin legs. Keira might have a point.

HAZEL: No, not possible. It's black and has a mask. I don't have a mask, and furthermore....

TUCKER: The important question would be, "Is this a visitor, a rescue, a re-home, or a foster dog?"

HAZEL: Can't be a re-home or rescue. Dad has put his foot down more than once about only three dogs and no more.

KEIRA: Mom says Dad can put his foot down all he wants, she'll just move the floor.

TUCKER: Keira, as the senior peace officer of this pack, I would strongly advise you to never tell Dad that.

KEIRA: Like he doesn't know already.

[The pack fell silent, realizing that all their questions could only be answered by the two-leggeds on the other side of the glass. Barking and frantic pawing would now be required to remove the glass obstacle to all their inquiries.]

Dad cautiously reached for the latch, knowing that 180 pounds of wound-up canines was going to launch out into the open. As the cloud of fur and curiosity leaped into the sunlight and towards the answers to their questions, they barely heard their Mom's introduction.]

MOM: This is Prudence. Your new sister.

~Hazel Bazel Rocket Dog
(To be continued....)

Scenes From My Trip



Waiting for transport

I've waited for this all year!



A crazy friend I met on the trail



Great trip!

I can't wait till next time!



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**Lady's
New Life**

When you work in animal welfare, you see your share of heartbreaking stories. Neglect, abuse, hoarding.... Unfortunately, it becomes all too familiar. That doesn't mean it gets easier to take in.



Lady came to the Humane Society of Sedona by way of a rural rescue partner. What we discovered about her life was heartbreaking to say the least. She was part of a puppy-mill and was bred over and over again. Lady lived in a cage, we imagine for most of her life. Her cage was stacked on top of other cages inside a filthy, deplorable house filled with other dogs. When the breeder could no longer breed her dogs, she left them behind in the house. Lady was one who was left behind.

When Lady arrived at HSS, it was clear she had not been given medical care and had a lot of problems. She had ear infections, rotten teeth, and she obviously wasn't spayed. She had the start of pyometra—a severe and potentially life-threatening infection of the uterus, and we can only imagine the pain she was in.

Lady received a dental (resulting in 15 extractions), was spayed, and given treatment for her infections. We were determined to give this small, twelve-year-old dog her best chance at a fresh start.

While Lady spent her whole life suffering, her luck was about to change. This little gal caught the eye and the heart of our very own shelter manager, Antonio. He cared for her while she recovered from all her surgeries, and simply fell in love.



Lady didn't even hit the adoption floor before Antonio made the adoption official—and we are so thankful for that. To watch this sweet, small girl who had been through so much wait in a shelter for her second chance would have been unbearable.

We dream of a world where backyard breeders and puppy-mills are a thing of the past. We are so thankful to be able to give dogs like Lady a second chance in life, and we couldn't do it without you! When you

donate, volunteer, adopt, foster, or even just share a social media post, you are supporting our staff and our mission, and you are helping animals like Lady find their happy endings.

If you are interested in adopting, fostering, or getting involved with the Humane Society of Sedona, please visit our website at humanesocietyofsedona.org, or give us a call at 928-282-4679.

(Rescue News continues on page 12)



Rescue Resources

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



<p>AARF ANIMAL RESCUE 6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com 928-925-7219</p>	<p>BLUE MOON RESCUE & SANCTUARY 1851 E Perkinsville Rd. Chino Valley 928-925-7724, bluemoonrescue.org</p>	<p>HEELING HEELERS HEARTS Surprise, 623-226-2749 azblueheeler.com</p>	<p>SOUTHWEST OASIS LABRADOR RESCUE 520-554-0911 solraz.org</p>
<p>ANIMAL GUARDIAN NETWORK HEALING RIVER RANCH 2564 N Arena Del Loma, Camp Verde 623-780-1604, animalguardiannetwork.org</p>	<p>BRADSHAW MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 18200 S Wolf Run Trail, Mayer 928-632-9559, bradshawmountainwildlife.com</p>	<p>HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff 928-526-0742 highcountryhumane.org</p>	<p>TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY 928-793-2364, tubacityhumanesociety.org</p>
<p>ARK CAT SANCTUARY dlrraz.org Parks, 635-5909 arkcatsanctuary.org</p>	<p>CENTRAL ARIZONA ANIMAL SEARCH & RESCUE Camp Verde, 520-921-9974 centralarizonaanimalsearchandrescueellc.com</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARIZONA 605 W. Wilson Ct, Payson 928-474-5590 humanesocietycentralAZ.org</p>	<p>UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS Prescott, 928-778-2924 unitedanimalfriends.org</p>
<p>BETHANY'S GAIT RANCH dlrraz.org 499-9442, Prescott</p>	<p>CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY Daytime 928-925-1926, Prescott Valley</p>	<p>HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA 2115 Shelby Dr 928-282-4679 humanesocietyofsedona.org</p>	<p>VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood 928-634-7387 VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org</p>
<p>BIG LUCK CLUB Navajo Reservation Dog Rescue bigluckclub.org, bigluckclub@gmail.com</p>	<p>COCONINO HUMANE ASSOCIATION 3501 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff 928-526-1076, coconinohumane.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY EQUINE CENTER (928) 515-4947, Chino Valley yavapaihumane.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott 928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org</p>
<p>BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Native American Reservation Animals 928-899-3942 blackhathumane@gmail.com</p>	<p>DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Glendale, 480-899-5227 dlrraz.org</p>	<p>SAVING PAWS RESCUE SHEPHERDS & MALINOIS Glendale, 480-737-6089 savingpawsrescueaz.org</p>	<p>YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL RESCUE Chino Valley yavapaihumanetrappers.org</p>
<p>AREA DOG PARKS</p>	<p>FLAGSTAFF DOG PARKS Thorpe Park – 788 N Thorpe Road, Flagstaff Bushmaster Park – 3150 N Alta Vista Dr, Flagstaff</p>	<p>SEDONA DOG PARK April 1 thru Oct 1: 6am-8pm • Oct. 1 thru April 1: 7am- 7pm Turn north on Soldier's Pass Road off State Route 89A, Sedona.</p>	<p>COTTONWOOD DOG PARK AT RIVERFRONT PARK Dawn to Dusk Riverfront Park Drive & N 10th St, Cottonwood</p>



Opt to Adopt

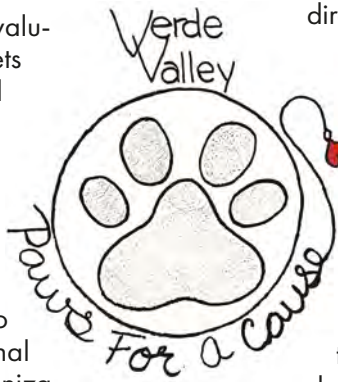


Verde Valley Paws for a Cause: We are the New Kid on the Block!

By Jan Tomlinson



I used to be an evaluator for Therapy Pets Unlimited (TPU), and we had 14 therapy teams out visiting in the community. Then Covid hit, and everything closed down. After Covid, TPU decided not to continue as a national therapy dog organization. Now we were left without a certifying therapy organization and a local evaluator. This is how Verde Valley Paws for a Cause was born.



directors was appointed, which included a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

After receiving our status as a corporation, we needed to write a constitution and by-laws for the corporation. We also created our evaluation form for therapy dog certification.

The next requirement was to publish our constitution and by-laws in the local paper for three weeks. When that was done, we now had to apply for our non-profit status from the Federal Government. We would then receive an ID number.

This may all seem boring, but there are many steps to go through when forming a new organization. After everything was completed and approved, we then applied for our liability insurance. This is a must in order to protect our therapy teams when they are out on their visits.

Our requirements for certification meet the standards of any of the other national therapy dog organizations. We also require that everyone must take and complete a six-week therapy dog class which includes two visits to a facility. To date, I have taught six classes, and we have certified 28 therapy teams who have completed 329 therapy visits for the year. We are now applying to the American Kennel Club for recognition as a therapy dog organization. Our teams can then apply for AKC Therapy Dog Titles.

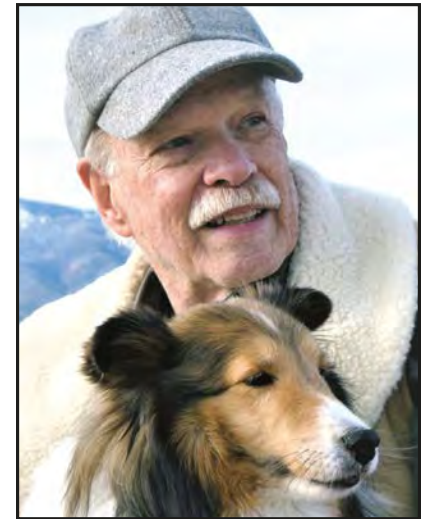
We have been visiting nursing homes in Cottonwood, Sedona, and Camp Verde, schools, libraries, assisted living facilities, a church youth program, and even a National Park.

If you are interested in our program, please email us at: VerdeValleyPawsForACause4468@gmail.com.

~Jan Tomlinson and
In Memory of Sir Chase,
CD, RI, NJP, NAP, THDA



We wanted to continue our therapy dog work in the Verde Valley. So, in October of 2023, several of us decided to form our own therapy organization. First, we had to create a name for it and design a logo. One of our club members who is an artist came up with a design that would be embroidered on the dog's vest. The next step was to apply to the State of Arizona to become a corporation. A board of

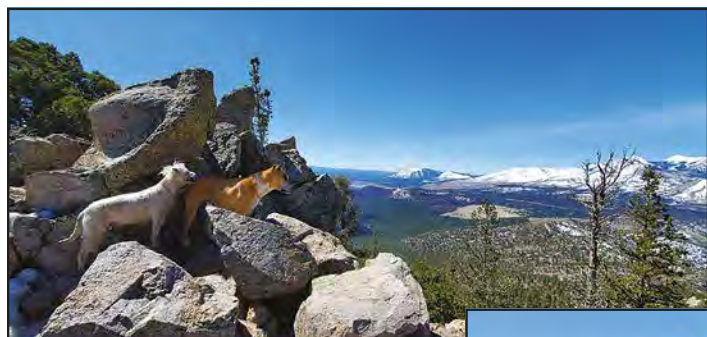


VERDE VALLEY PAWS FOR A CAUSE

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Grounded Pack Leadership Instead of Aggressive Dictatorships

By Solana Kline



My two pups just had a relationship testing moment. Driving to town in the Tacoma, and these two dorks sit on an exquisitely padded platform where the backseats used to be so that they can see out the windows and catch all the best sniffers whilst we roam on the road.

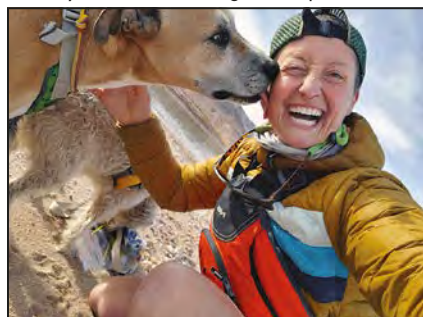
Betty, aka Silver Back Sausage (the 30-lb. ex-street dog terrier) has wedged herself in as close as she can get to my mouth, a mouth which is currently eating a magnificent breakfast burrito, and if she can't have any of the cheesy eggie morsels in her gob, she certainly feels that whiffs of it are a close second.

In doing so, she sardines Mickeyaka, aka Senor Lioness (the 65-lb. ex-fighting Pibble/Boxer), against the rear window. He finally tires of being squished and tries to stand up and turn around. But with the sandbagger Betty cemented to her prime breakie sniffing location, he only makes it halfway, consequently sitting on Betty's head. They linger in this hilarious and heartwarming position for a minute or so, neither bothered or imposed upon by the hilarity of their posturing. I snag a picture, and am filled to the brim with pride over these two being so relaxed around one another.

My pups are both adopted: Betty from Oregon Friends of Shelter Animals (ofosa.org), and Mickey from the Nevada Humane Society in Reno (nevadahumanesociety.org). They each had their fair share of unwarranted abuse from humans and dogs which shaped their social behaviors, just like we as humans learn our social behaviors from the people and events around us. This left both pups very scared and aggressive. And when we first added Mickey to the pack, they fought unpredictable bloody battles to the point that I thought I might have to bring Micks back to the humane society (something I thought I would NEVER do!).

My relationship with Mr. Mickey has completely changed how I live with and train my pups. Mickey had been at the Nevada Humane society for almost two years because he was so shy he couldn't be in the viewing area, and he was also very dog aggressive. Mickey had learned that interacting with humans and dogs meant danger, violence, aggression, starvation, thirst, freezing cold, blazing heat, and overall, a life of suffering. He was lacking love, companionship, trust, and bonding—true elements of pack behavior!

Mickey is an amazing example of how



an extremely dog-aggressive dog can heal from his traumatic past and learn to trust in the safety of play and comradery—to enjoy his life! This is a

big deal because dogs who are aggressive most often get euthanized, especially pit bulls.

According to the ASPCA (tinyurl.com/bddnt-vw4), every year 390,000 dogs are euthanized in the US. This is so many of our potential pack pals sent up to doggie heaven without getting to experience the joy of a warm loving pack and home. So, if Mickey can do it, so can other learned-aggressive pups!



I think what many of us humans don't realize is that true leadership comes from being calm and grounded in our position as pack leader. True leadership does not come from frenetic aggression enacted to assert our dominance, or from anxious fear. A calm, confident, and grounded pack leader sets the tone for the entire pack: our pups learn what to trust and how to

build confidence and relationships from our actions and interactions.

One of the toughest things I see out on the trail is a human screaming frantically that their dog is aggressive. They yank back their dog and very clearly set tone for their pup that the situation is very dangerous! So, of course the dog will respond as such. I am no expert, but in my experience training several extremely aggressive dogs, all it takes is the most minor shift in my thoughts and pheromones for my dog to sense my fear or apprehension, leading them to shift into protective and aggressive behaviors. Our dogs are pack animals!

It is our responsibility as calm confident pack leaders to be aware of where and how our doggies are feeling each day, to be aware of how WE are feeling when we are out with our pups (the second I feel nervous or anxious, my dogs are more aggressive), to look ahead at potential triggers or situations that might set our pups up for failure, and to be in the present moment connecting with our pups when we are helping them learn how and who to be in the world!

Mickey went from literally Jaws attacking dogs from the bushes to being soooo happy and proud of himself every time he is brave and calm enough to waggle his tail and sniff new butts! As we have gone through the years together, we all have learned so much about trust, bonding, play, and safety.

I have learned how ruling a pack through terror akin to that of a South American dictator is the least effective way to lead and train. It's ruling through fear, not trust; no one trusts a violent dictator! Instead, it's been important to provide Mickey with a lot of exercise (essential for all dogs if you want them to behave and bond!), so much love AND space when he needs it (letting him choose his own comfort boundaries with space), and very positive experiences socializing and building his confidence with other dogs.

Micks had zero clue that play was not violence. He didn't understand socializing because he was isolated and

starved until he had to fight, which means his initial interactions with humans or dogs were extremely violent. Over a few years, Betty kept building up little play exercises with Mickey, and we both gave him space and love—space to mess up and try it out. We practiced safe and calm interactions meeting new friends.

I sat with him calmly as doggies walked by and radiated positivity for him to feel that we were safe, and the situation was safe. He eventually stopped being so violent, he safely plays rough with Betty (her favorite!). He just started rolling onto his back for tummy pets (amazing!), and he makes friends everywhere we go!

We can't be certain of other dog or human behaviors in our encounters, but we can best set ourselves and our pups up for success in these situations. We can understand that, just like ourselves and our human experience, our pups have gone through trauma that they don't understand and didn't deserve. They have acquired triggers that need healing, trust, and positive experience.

With Mickey, I was just working with him intuitively, listening to what he needed. This wasn't the most efficient method sometimes, but there are really neat resources now that can help us train our aggressive friends. Maybe it would even work on the disgruntled humans in our lives!

Training with positive reinforcement is the key here. The benefits of this strategy are immense: Building trust and bonds, reducing boredom, building your pups own confidence, and clear understanding of what their pack rules are to be a successful packmate! Check out the benefits of this approach here: tinyurl.com/wju3z5df.

Important here is for us humans to manage our own demeanor. Dogs can immediately sniff out the human who is pretending to be happy and positive to mask their fear or anxiety. Our pups need us to be

grounded and calm in our positive training, and heck, it ain't too bad for us to be this way either! So how do we do it?!

There is a neat approach that I came across recently that can help extreme dog aggression. It's called the Bubble Theory. It is a training approach that slowly minimizes a dog's individual trigger reactivity space bubble. Watch the video in the link here: tinyurl.com/yn4zjdbn.

In the end, it boils down to us paying better attention to our furry farty friends, seeing when they get nervous or anxious, observing when they are happy and relaxed. What and why did they feel anxious versus relaxed and happy? How can we be calm and confident pack leaders where our pups feel safe? Cesar Milan has done much work with this: tinyurl.com/bd7uc2pr.

Our energy becomes indicator to our dogs of how they should respond and interact in all contexts. So, for ourselves and for our four-leggers, lets remain calm! Let's give them and us the peace we all deserve!

Until next time, happy tails and happy trails!



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www.HumaneSocietyOfSedona.org

(Rescue News continued from page 8)



Her Name is Harley

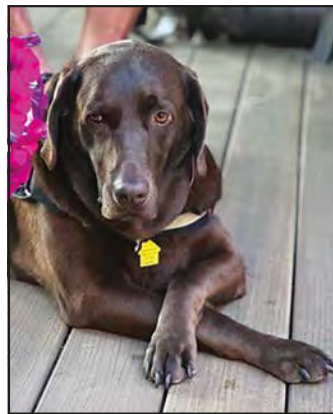
On January 3, 2023, she was dropped off at animal control to be euthanized due to poor health by her previous owner. Her weight topped the scale at 125 pounds, she was lethargic and refused to eat, and her owners could no longer keep her.

What could have been the worst day in Harley's life turned out to be her best. Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue (DLRR) volunteers stepped in and

turned her world around.

She was diagnosed with hypothyroidism and placed in the tender care of a foster family. In a short period of time, they helped her get on the path to better health and let her experience security and love again. And soon after that she was adopted by her forever family.

Now, a year later, Harley is happy and healthy. She has filled her new home with well-loved squeaky toys, sloppy water dishes, and unwavering excitement at every walk, scratch,



If you ever wonder if you can make a difference, Harley is living proof.

belly-rub, car ride, and meal.

While she is still a little unsure about swimming, she loves to help garden by personally picking all the sugar snap peas and cucumbers she cares to snack on.

She is absolutely beautiful inside and out! Thanks to the commitment of the DLRR volunteers, Harley is finally able to enjoy the life she has always deserved and has been a great addition to her forever family.



To say Song is a survivor understates her amazing tenacity, courage, and spirit to live. Luckily for her, a Blackhat foster, Skyler, saw that determination and matched it with her own commitment to help Song.

When Song was found on the reservation during the sweltering July heatwave, she was emaciated, suffering from severe pneumonia, and battling tick fever. Plus, she was trying to care for her only surviving struggling baby as well. When they were captured, ever the mom, she was more worried about her baby, but Blackhat knew she was in distress and rushed her to the vet.

Given only a 50% chance of survival, she quickly charmed her way into the vets and vet techs hearts. As she was making a slow recovery, she was given another blow with the discovery of a diaphragmatic hernia, meaning the diaphragm muscle that separated her chest cavity from her abdominal cavity was torn. Her abdominal organs had spilled into her chest, crushing her lungs.

With apprehension, her surgery was scheduled in November and once again her courage and spirit rose to the occasion. During surgery, the veterinarian discovered Song had also been shot in the head with a shotgun. Skyler rolled up her shirt sleeves for more health care duties, which paid off in full.

Song has now been given a clean bill of health and is ready for her own home. Her personality is as

big as her spirit, and she loves to run and play. She "awooos" loudly when she feels dinner is behind schedule, and she wakes each morning eagerly knowing she was given an amazing second chance to live life to the fullest.

She gets along with other friendly dogs. She was likely attacked by dogs when she was ill and on her own, so it takes her a little bit to warm up, but then she's very playful. Sadly, cats may be too provocative for her. Her baby, Oliver, has been adopted and is thriving in a loving home. It doesn't get better than that.

With over 300,000 street dogs and cats trying to make it on the reservation, there is a dire need for more help. Blackhat diligently disseminates every spay-neuter and vaccine clinic, but rescues and fosters are still desperately needed. Can you open your home for a pup who needs that helping hand? Blackhat covers all medical and supplies and would be grateful for your help.

Call 928-899-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org to learn more about how you can help. To learn more about adopting Song, go to tinyurl.com/2v4fwdut.



Tucson Goes Home

Tucson, a four- or five-year-old mixed-breed stray, came to the Verde Valley Humane Society shelter over a year ago. Our staff and volunteers loved this handsome guy. He played with a ball and could catch anything in midair. We knew he needed active adopters who would provide him with plenty of exercise and fun. He was a very good dog who needed a yard in which to stretch his long legs.

When Tucson's adopters showed up, we knew he'd found a great match. They took him home for a three-day trial and after one day called and said, "You'll never get this dog back!"

After a month, his new family reports Tucson knows commands and has settled into their family. He visits the dog park three or four times a week and goes for walks. He has a big yard to run in and is perfectly mindful when told to stop barking, while all the other dogs in the neighborhood are less polite.

It's heartwarming for us to hear post-adoption stories, especially for dogs like Tucson who spend a longer time with us. Verde Valley Humane staff and volunteers can't help but get attached to our long-timers and hope for the best outcome for each. So, of course, all are excited to hear Tucson is living the dream.

At the Verde Valley Humane Society, our mission is to take in homeless animals in the Verde Valley, care for them, and offer them for adoption. We take this basic responsibility se-



riously but could not offer more of what some would call the extras and we call necessities without our faithful volunteers.

Tireless volunteers show up in the wee hours to walk, play, and hug dogs. They prepare dogs for forever homes by teaching behaviors adopters thank us for. Our puppy trainer gives individual time to help puppies charm their way into the perfect home. Cat-loving volunteers socialize and entertain our cats to keep them healthy and happy.

Every extra hour of attention, grooming, and socialization helps each animal thrive. In addition, volunteer fosters of both cats and dogs provide a real home away from the shelter atmosphere that is difficult for certain pets, those recovering from surgery, and of course new moms caring for unexpected puppies and kittens. In 2023 our volunteers donated 13,000 hours of priceless time, energy, and love.

Are you interested in becoming a Volunteer at our Cottonwood shelter or becoming a Foster? Find applications on our website: verdevalleyhumane.org, or call us at 928-634-7387.

RESCUE NEWS



**Yavapai
Humane
Society**

**Caring for Animals Isn't Just
What We Do, It's Who We Are**

People often ask us, "Isn't it hard to work at Yavapai Humane Society?" Our answer is sometimes, but for the most part, it's the most rewarding job we've ever had!

We all come to work every day with one mission, and that is to care for and love these animals so we can find them their forever homes. We all love these animals as if they were our own, and it shows in the smiles on our faces when we see them find their new families. A lot of times, you'll even spot some happy tears on our faces as they walk out the doors with their new forever friend.

Are there times it's hard on us? Yes! Seeing some of the animals who are with us for long periods of time because they are overlooked for whatever reason breaks our hearts. We have dogs and cats that are adopted and returned to us within 25 minutes, 24 hours, two to three days, or even longer. Why? Here are some of the reasons we've heard:

Brought back within 25 minutes: Dog threw up in the car on the way home.

Brought back within 24 hours: Dog had a potty accident in the house overnight.

Brought back within 24 hours: New cat hid in a corner and wouldn't come sit in my lap.

Brought back within 24 hours: The dog is too big. (Umm, she's the same size as she was yesterday, when you swore she was your forever dog and would never bring her back. And yet, you did.)

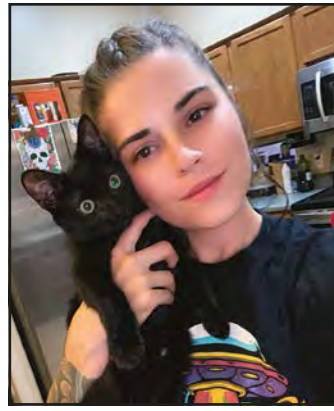
Brought back within 72 hours: New cat is still under the bed, and won't come out to meet my dog.

Brought back within 48 hours: Tried to escape.

We at Yavapai Humane Society, and you as adopters, have no idea what these animals have been through in their lives. Some come in as strays. Some come in because their person has

passed away, and they are confused, sad, lonely... and most of all, scared. Some come in from horrendous situations with hoarding, where they've lived in cages their entire lives. Some must be surrendered to us because of something their person is going through.

We understand, and we get that. What we don't get is when a dog is surrendered that has been with a family its whole life because its family has gotten a new puppy, and they don't get along. So, because of the new puppy, the family decides



to surrender the pet that has been with them and loves them unconditionally?

These are the things that make working at YHS hard and heartbreaking, but once again, caring for animals isn't just what we do, it's who we are. Every single day, we will

do our absolute best to make sure each and every animal is taken care of, walked, fed and—most of all—loved, until we see it walk out the front door with its new forever family.

Here's what some of our employees say the most rewarding part of working here is.

Emily: "The smiles and looks on people's faces when they adopt their dog or cat. It can be very emotional, and it sometimes brings me to tears, seeing them so happy and knowing that we played a part in a new family being formed."

Thomas: I love seeing dogs reunited with their owners! It's the most gratifying feeling when that dog sees it's human and runs to them. You know that dog feels safe and loved.

Matt: Being able to educate people on the behavior, health, and safety of their pet, and the importance of microchipping and vaccinations. No one wants to see their pets get hurt or lost.

Bob: I love the dogs and getting to know them and work with them, to see their true personalities come out. The best part, though, is watching them leave to go to their new homes.

Aiden: Some dogs come to us with serious behavior issues. It's really rewarding to see the results of the training and rehabilitation we provide to help them find homes.

Rebecca: Seeing the way some of the animals come to us, and how we're able to help bring out their true personalities. We earn their trust to help build



their confidence and help them get ready for new homes. Probably the most rewarding part is when one of our long-term residents finds their true forever home.

It's easy to see that the common denominator for all of us is the joy we have in not only taking care of the animals, but getting to know them, loving them, and seeing them find their forever homes.

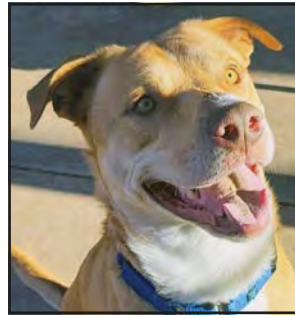
Because of the work each of us does at YHS, we have animals who, though they may start out with a heartbreaking beginning, thankfully turn into stories of hope and success. That's exactly why caring for animals isn't just what we do, it's who we are.



RESCUE NEWS



JOSIE: A sweet, easygoing lady. She is affectionate, housetrained, crate trained, walks well on a leash, non-destructive. She loves watching tv with her person. High Country Humane foster, text 520-404-7005. Adoption fee is waived.



CHEETAH: We love this guy! Cheetah is such a sweetie. Cheetah weighs around 60 pounds and walks well on leash. He enjoys attention and has been good with other dogs. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



KIWI: A 1-year-old most handsome male with amazing eyes. He loves adventures, playtime, and naps. He is clever and affectionate. His adoption fee has been waived. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



CHARLIE: A young male Walker Coon Hound mix. He is affectionate and loves walks, but also loves to sniff! He is looking for an active adopter who appreciates his unique hound personality. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



KANCHI: A sweet and cuddly Big Friendly Giant. She is a sweetheart who knows basic commands, is housetrained, and walks well on a leash. Her adoption fee is waived. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



BLUE: A young female pit bull mix. A gorgeous, big gal looking for a strong and experienced adopter. Blue is 65lbs of muscle and she would love an active lifestyle. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



CHARLIE BROWN: A sweet and gentle 2-year-old male American Bulldog mix. White with freckled ears and blue eyes. Knows commands, is housetrained, very sociable. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



OREO: A 2-year-old female pit bull mix. She is a charming lady; friendly, affectionate, athletic, and playful. She is good with other dogs and cats. Blackhat Humane Society/foster Margaret at perpetua3629@gmail.com



JUSTICE: A 1-year-old male mixed breed who weighs 64 pounds. He is loving, energetic, and playful. He would make a great jogging or hiking companion. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



SONG: A female Husky/Cattle Dog mix, 2 years old. Snuggling, playing, and eating are her favorite activities. Adventurous and smart, but very focused on affection. Good with other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society Text Sky at 432-889-1562.



DAFFODIL: A 2-year-old female Pit Bull mix. Affectionate, easygoing, gentle, good with kids & other dogs. Wants only to be your best friend and constant companion. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



WHISKEY: An athletic tricolor female Cattle Dog mix, 2yo. Loves affection, is very loyal. A smart, problem-solving lady who'd make a wonderful obedience or agility dog. Blackhat Humane Society foster k_s_lyon@yahoo.com.

Airpark Animal Hospital



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



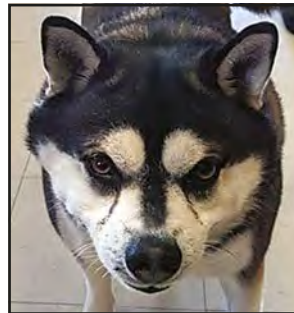
BANDIT: A 6-month-old black husky with striking blue eyes. He is full of energy and playful. He has lived with cats and children and is good with other dogs.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



ARI: A black and white 7-month-old terrier mix, female. For more information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association.
928-526-1076



BOWEN: A young male, very handsome, sweet, and playful. He weighs about 60 pounds. He walks well on a leash and knows 'sit'. He does well around other dogs.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



MUSHU: A 3-year-old male Alaskan Husky/Pomeranian cross. For more information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association.
928-526-1076



FAYE: A beautiful golden female Kelpie mix. She is five months old. For more information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association.
928-526-1076



SAMMIE: A 5-year-old male, about 60 pounds. He adores people and is good with kids. He is smart, active, playful, and outgoing, but does know how to relax. And his adoption fee is waived! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



MERRY: A 4-year-old female Shih Tzu, primarily gray and white. For more information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association.
928-526-1076



MISTY: A 4-month-old female. She is super sweet and cuddly. She plays hard and naps hard. She is also very smart and will be wonderful to train to do just about anything. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



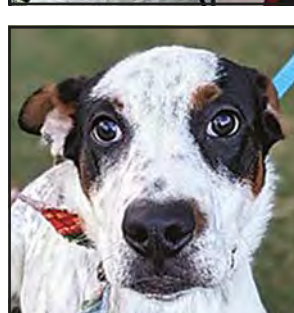
BRUNO: A 4-year-old Alaskan Malamute mix. He weighs about 60 pounds. He is fun, affectionate, and active. He would make a great hiking or jogging companion.
Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



SUMMIT: A 9-month-old male. He's a bit shy, but snuggly build friendship! He is smart, affectionate, and high energy, so he would love an active family. He is good with other dogs. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



LUCY: A petite diva with a heart of gold. She is laid back but playful and very affectionate. She is hoping for snuggles in a warm and cozy hope with people who love her.
Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



NEEGAN: A 6-month-old male shepherd mix. He is black and white with a ticked coat. For more information, please contact Coconino Humane Association.
928-526-1076



KIMBER: A sweet senior lady abandoned by her owner. A sweet, good girl, potty-trained, non-destructive, & walks well on a leash. She loves people and lying in the sunshine. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

CALENDAR

Events are subject to change. Please contact the event sponsor to confirm date and details.

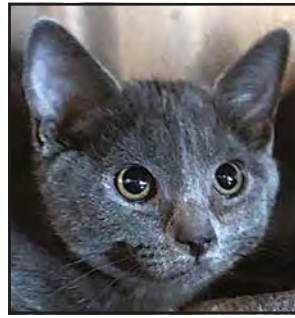
DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE MEET & GREET

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- Feb 10, 10a-12p. Pet Headquarters, 2710 N Glassford Hill Rd, Prescott Valley
- Mar 9, 10a-12p. Olsen's Grain, 711 Elrod Rd (S of US Post Office), Prescott
- Feb 10, 10a-12p. Petsmart, 1121 S Plaza Way, Flagstaff
- Mar 30, 10a-12p. Petsmart, 1121 S Plaza Way, Flagstaff



HEATHCLIFFE: A 2-year-old black fluffball. He is very affectionate, clever, and loves to chase toys. He has lots and lots of love to give.
High Country Humane
928-526-0742



PEEP: AKA Peep the Purrer. She is a very sweet silver grey 12-week-old kitten with green eyes. She is sweet, very affectionate and playful, with a purr that never stops.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



MERRY: A 4-year-old tabby female, a gentle little darling whose owner passed away. She's a bit shy at first, but a loving little lady once she gets to know you. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



MONET: A beautiful cream lady with white trim. She is petite, gentle, quiet, affectionate, and is hoping to find someone to shower her with love and attention.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



ELLIOTT: A most handsome lap cat for life! A male cream tabby, he is a handsome, gentle fellow who loves cuddles and a lap to cuddle on. His adoption fee has been waived. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



NALA: An elegant 2-year-old brown tabby lady with white trim and amazing whiskers. For further information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association. 928-526-1076



THUNDER: A beautiful 5-month-old male House Panther with his jet-black fur and golden eyes. He is brave, bold, curious, and affectionate. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



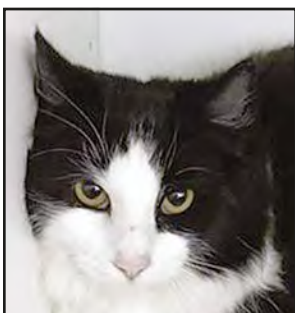
SNOWBALL: An elegant 2-year-old white female with big golden eyes. For further information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association. 928-526-1076



MITZI: A 2-year-old long-haired female Torbie (that's a tortoiseshell with tabby stripes) with big green eyes. She is a little bit shy, but she will show you how loving she can be. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



ROSE: A beautiful lady who is an amazing combination of calico and tabby stripes. For more information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association. 928-526-1076



SPRITE: A lovely 8-month-old female tuxedo lady. She is elegant with her white gloves, and she is very sweet and playful. She is looking for a quiet and loving home. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



ASHWAY: A most handsome cream and white male, about 2 years old. He is a very sweet, affectionate cat. Gets along with dogs and other cats. Blackhat Humane Society foster at shannonbares1023@gmail.com



CHURCHILL: A handsome young male brown tabby with big green eyes and elegant whiskers. He is a very friendly, affectionate fellow who will make a wonderful companion. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



TIGER: An elegant 3-year-old male silver tabby with beautiful green eyes. He is as affectionate as he is handsome. For more information, please contact Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076

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Muzzles Full of Snow in Colorado

By Stacey Wittig



Australian Shepherd at Crested Butte, Colorado.
Courtesy Zach Betten, Unsplash.

Colorado could paw-sibly be the best state for traveling with your four-legged pal this season. Picture your pups with muzzles full of snow, romping in a winter wonderland!

Colorado is known for its captivating landscapes, including the Rocky Mountains, national parks, and vast wilderness areas. These natural environments provide opportunities for outdoor adventures with your canine companion, from hiking and biking to exploring scenic trails.

Many Colorado attractions and recreational areas are dog friendly. You can find dog-friendly parks, trails, restaurant patios,

and breweries that welcome your furry friend. Some Colorado breweries even have attached dog parks, like Romero's K9 Club and Tap House in Lafayette.

Outdoor recreation is a huge part of the Colorado lifestyle. Activities such as hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing are great ways to bond with your dog and keep both of you

active and healthy. For instance, Grand Mesa Nordic Council outside Grand Junction offers miles of dog-friendly Nordic trails. On the cross-country ski trails on US Forest Service lands, USFS policy requires dogs to be always on leash or in sight and under voice control. For all the dog rules and etiquette, visit gmnc.org/trails/dog-rules.

Colorado's state and national parks are a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and canine companions. You'll discover a diverse array of pet-friendly trails and outdoor spaces that allow you and your four-legged friend to immerse yourselves in the state's breathtaking natural beauty.

While it's important to note that there may be specific restrictions in certain areas, Colorado's parks typically provide ample opportunities for you to explore together.

It's essential to respect park regulations, which may include leash requirements, waste disposal guidelines, and seasonal

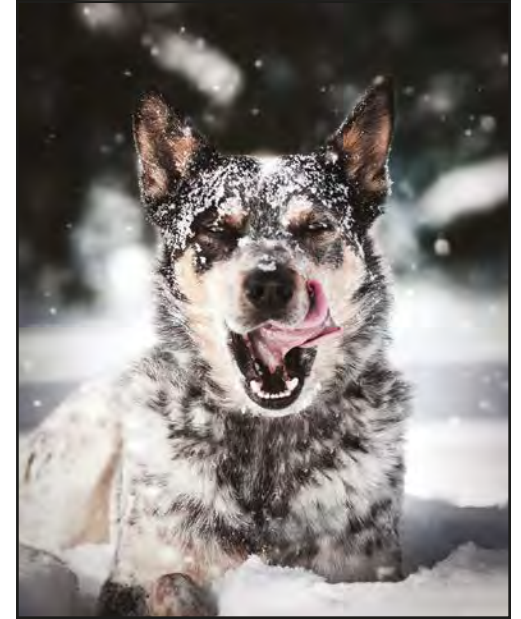
restrictions. By adhering to these rules, you'll ensure the safety and well-being of both your dog and the surrounding wildlife. Additionally, always be mindful of other visitors sharing the trails and open spaces, making the experience enjoyable for everyone.

So, whether you're exploring the serene forests of Rocky Mountain National Park or meandering through the red rocks of Garden of the Gods, you'll find that Colorado's state and national parks offer an abundance of opportunities for creating lasting memories with your furry companion in some of the most picturesque landscapes in the country.

Another reason Colorado might be the best state for winter travel with your pet is the abundance of pet-friendly hotels, lodges, and vacation rentals. That makes it easier to find suitable accommodations for you and Bowzer. We stayed at the dog-friendly Monarch Mountain Lodge on our recent trip to Snow Country.

What's more, Colorado hosts various pet-friendly events and festivals throughout the year, allowing you and your dog to participate in fun and unique experiences. Celebrate Mardi Gras 4Paws in Frisco in February with a costumed canine parade and street party. Or bring your sled and compete in the Dog Dash at Steamboat Winter Carnival, my favorite Colorado festival. Don't miss the Colorado Springs Dog Expo in April, which features 150 exhibitors and an anticipated gathering of 6,000 enthusiastic pet enthusiasts.

Remember that when traveling with your dog in Colorado, it's essential to be responsible and respectful of the environment,

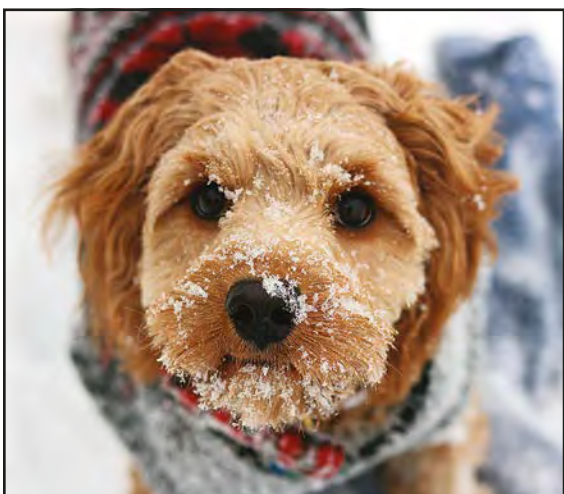


Courtesy, Daniel Lincoln, Unsplash.

wildlife, and other visitors. Always clean up after your furry traveling companion and follow leash laws to ensure a positive experience for everyone and to preserve the state's natural beauty. Additionally, check for any specific regulations or restrictions at the places you plan to visit with your dog.

Find more information about Colorado travel at colorado.com.

Stacey Wittig lived in Colorado with her dogs for eleven years before moving to Flagstaff, Arizona. Get more tips and travel inspiration at her travel blog, unstoppablestaceytravel.com.



Courtesy Mia Anderson, Unsplash.



Courtesy Enrico Mantegazza, Unsplash.

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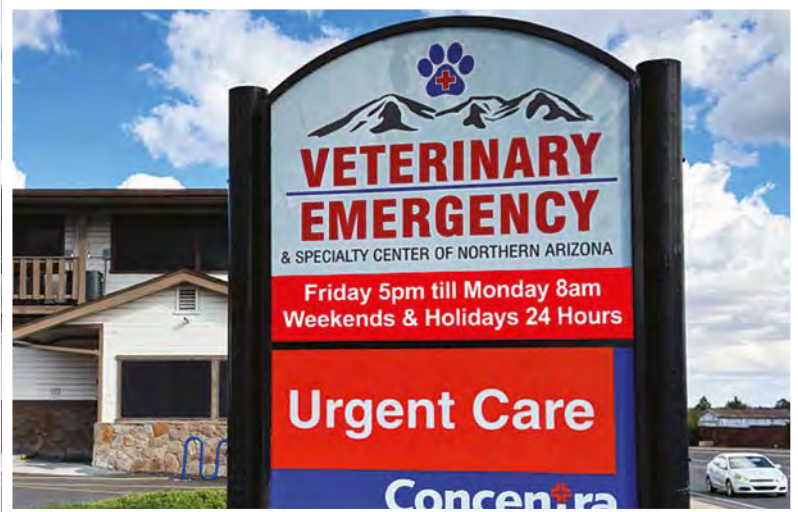
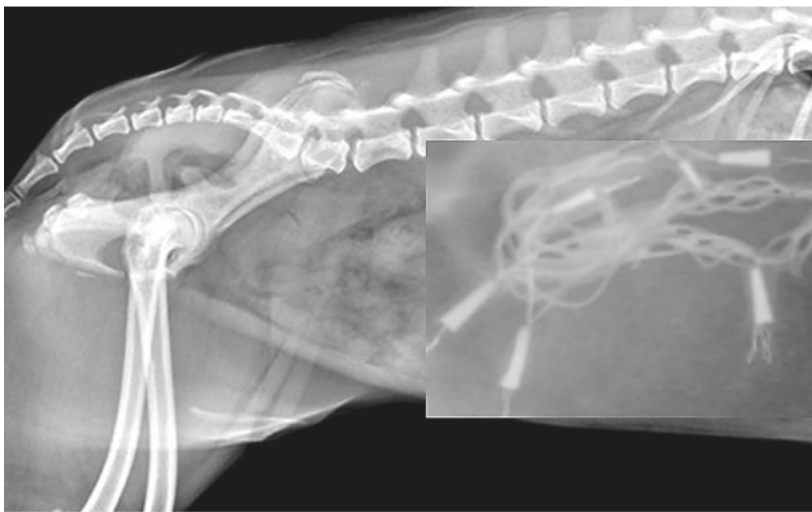
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