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April/May 2024 FlagstaffSedonaDog.com

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# Flagstaff-Sedona Sology CONTENTS

Hope, Our Cover Dog5
Tucker's Take6
Calendar7
Rescue Resources7
A Letter From Your Newly Adopted Dog or Cat
Paws for the Planet: Reducing Our Pets' Carbon Pawprint10 <i>Solana Kline</i>
Rescue Tales
Dogs for Adoption14
Cats for Adoption15
She was Dog 132, and We Named Her Andi16 <i>Judith Dawson</i>
Plan a Pet-Friendly Lake Havasu City 'Paw-ty'18

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# Flagstaff-Sedona Dog 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





ATT CONTRACT

# Hope, Our Cover Dog

My name is Hope.

My hometown is Second Mesa, on the Hopi Reservation. I now live in Lake Montezuma with Mom and Dad.

I'm a year old.

I love Blue Mountain kibble and when Mom and Dad make chicken!

My favorite toy is anything that squeaks.

I love hiking with my Dad and playing with my little brother and sisters,

My favorite spot to nap is on the couch.

I walk 2.5 miles with Dad every day and play ball most days.

I have a brother and two sisters. Rex is a 20-year-old dachshund mix, Puka is a 17-year-old shi-tzu, and I have my pal, Gurdy, who is a small terrier mix.

















# **Tucker's** Take



Dad sat with me on the corner of the bed; heavy spring rain and far-flung echoes of thunder made a late-morning nap inevitable. Dad sitting with me at that moment wasn't really part of my plan. The conversation that followed (read orders of the day) was the last thing I wanted to hear or deal with.

"Mom reminded me your column was due uh...a few days ago, and there's a slight, tiny, infinitesimal, mostly very small and easily correctable problem that we can put our heads together and muddle through. No sweat."

TUCKER'S TAKE

I knew, not only in my canine brain but all the way down to the marrow in my bones, that whatever Dad was trying to tell me would end up pointing a paw at Hazel. I had to clamp my jaws just a little tighter not to blurt out, "What did Hazel do now?!" I knew if I interrupted Dad during his attempt to remember everything Mom had told him, I'd lose valuable nap time.

"So it seems..." Dad continued, looking away towards the doorway. "A small editing kind of glitch happened which will kind of frame how you might want to do your column."

"Explain...glitch." I gave up on my curled position and pushed all four limbs straight out for a good long strong stretch. Dad just happened to be lined up with my hind quarters and got a good shove.

"Well...uh...Hazel forgot to delete the last sentence in the column she wrote for you when you took time off." Dad was still looking at the doorway. "She ended her story with...uh, "To be continued" or something kind of close to that."

I sighed a long, deep sigh and tried to imagine what it would be like if Hazel wore a dress shirt with a tie and somehow I magically possessed opposable thumbs and could grab her by the shirt collar and shake her like in the movies. I thought it would somehow be cathartic...until Mom would hear us and shout a "Decease and quit!" command with her "Don't push it, kidz" tone of voice.

Abandoning my cinematic imaginings, I jumped off the bed to go and find Hazel, leaving Dad trying to think of "That other thing" Mom had told him to tell me.

#### Act One: A Mild Interrogation

Me: What was your story with Flagstaff about, Haze?

Hazel: It would hurt my feelings Tuck, if I thought you didn't read my columns on a regular basis.

Me: Do you know, my dearest pack sister, how hard it is to write my columns when you take all the best stories from our lives together? That's why I haven't written about Pru, her arrival, her behavior, her antics. If I tell you what I'm thinking of writing about, you always say that's what you're working on. Now, can you just tell me what you wrote about?

Hazel: I think I might have missed the part on whether you read my columns.

Me: Could you just tell me what you wrote about, and we'll discuss my reading habits later?

Hazel: Tucker...you know I don't mull over past columns after they go to print. I'm a forward looking kind of writer.

Me: I'm forward-looking too, Hazel, and right now I'm looking forward to sauntering over to Mom's office and asking her how Hazel is getting along with editing and compiling the second volume of her book series that you were suppose to start before the holiday season.

#### Act Two: A Quick Confession

Hazel: IT WAS ABOUT PRU AND WE WERE ALL ASLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM AND I HEARD THE SOUND OF LEASH AND COLLAR... PRU WAS IN THE BACKYARD WITH MOM AND DAD... HER FIRST DAY HERE AND—

Me: Calm down Haze, I was there too. Ok, so....

Hazel: Don't bring up the book, okay, Tuck?

Me: Ok. As I was about to say, what did you have in mind when you wrote "To be continued"?

Hazel: The book. What about Mom and all that.

Me: Just help me get this straightened out, and I will develop amnesia where your volume two is concerned.

Hazel: Is that a yes, you won't tell, or a no, you won't tell?

Me: It's both, I won't tell. Now about the continuing story—



**Promise Prudence Pepper** (aka Prudential, Zaa-Pruder, Pruise Missle, Pru-desance, Pru-Do, Pru-Bear, Pru-Don't!, Pru-assic Park, Corporal Pepper, Tyrannosaurus-P, P-Rex, Tenacious-P, Tazmanian Pru).

Hazel: Oh that's easy. Remember we were on the bed going over all the nicknames for Pru, and which one was her real name, and you thought something was bothering me other than her names? And then Pru and Keira were outside with Mom, and then—

Me: Got it! Just one more question Haze. Why did you put "To be continued" when you knew I was going to write the next one?

Hazel: Well, as I'm the more experienced writer with a large following, I thought it would help.

Me: It didn't.

Hazel: Dad said you wouldn't be happy about it. He told me to delete it.

Me: Yet, you chose to carry on?

Hazel: Well, Mom saw it and didn't say anything, so....

Me: Water over the bridge now. I guess I'll paddle off and get my story together.

Hazel: You know Tuck, if you read my columns more often these misunderstandings wouldn't occur.

#### Act Three: Enter New Character

Hey everyone, Tucker here to say it was great to take some time off, but better yet to be back at home and writing to you. So I want to start off this column on this beautiful sunlit spring day introducing you to our most recent addition to our pack family (photo at left).

If curiosity is your hobby, check out my sister's and my musings on Pru's names on page 6 here: https://tinyurl.com/34t3fztt





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

#### **ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS**

#### HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE

- LOW-INCOME SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC: Appts every Fri beginning 8a. Call 928-853-8864 or email publicclinic@ highcountryhumane.org.
- LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINIC: 1st Sat every month 8a-10a. No appt necessary. Due to demand, we can only serve the first 40 pets at each clinic.
- PETSMART ADOPTION EVENT: Cats & puppies. Every 1st Sun, 10a at Flagstaff PetSmart.
- FLAGSTAFF MALL ADOPTION EVENT: Puppies & adult dogs. Every 2nd Sat.

- NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION: Learn about all volunteer opportunities. Every other Thurs & Sat, 3:30p.
- PET FOOD BANK: First-come, firstserved. Last Sat of each month, 12p-3p.

#### APRIL-MAY

HERITAGE PARK ZOO, PRESCOTT Apr 13: Breakfast with Lynx Apr 20: Behind The Scenes Photo Tour Apr 27: Community Appreciation Day May 4, 18: ZooLittles May 4: Evening with the Wolves May 11: Breakfast with the Eagles May 16: Wildlife in Focus May 18: Sip N Paint (Adult) May 23: Zoo By Moonlight

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

CHINO VALLEY CANINE TRAINING CLUB ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RAFFLE: At Memory Park, Oct 5 (8a-3p) & Oct 6 (8a-12p) w/drawing to follow. Ticket sales help with spay/ neuter of dogs adopted from our shelter. More info: fb.me/e/6KF7qi6KR



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AARF ANIMAL RESCUE 6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com 928-925-7219, aarfrescue.net	CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER 1904 Voss Drive, Chino Valley cvas@chinoaz.net, 928-636-4223 x7 chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption		HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA 2115 Shelby Dr 928-282-4679 humanesocietyofsedona.org		SOUTHWEST OASIS LABRADOR RESCUE 520-554-0911 solraz.org	
ANIMAL GUARDIAN NETWORK HEALING RIVER RANCH 2564 N Arena Del Loma, Camp Verde 623-780-1604, animalguardiannetwork.org	CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY Daytime 928-925-1926, Prescott Valley		HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBUR 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg 928-684-8801 wickenburghumane.com	IUB	A CITY HUMANE SOCIETY 928-793-2364, ubacityhumanesociety.org	
ARK CAT SANCTUARY Parks, 928-635-5909 arkcatsanctuary.org	COCONINO HUMANE ASSOCIATION 3501 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff 928-526-1076, coconinohumane.org		PEOPLE FOR PAWS AZ RESCUE peopleforpawsaz.org Info@peopleforpawsaz.org		NITED ANIMAL FRIENDS Prescott, 928-778-2924 unitedanimalfriends.org	
BETHANY'S GAIT RANCH dlrraz.org 928-499-9442, Prescott	DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Glendale, 480-899-5227 dlrraz.org		PETEY'S PLAYGROUND 22448 State Highway 89, Yarnell peteysplayground@gmail.com 928-713-1375, peteysplayground.org	1520	VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood 928-634-7387 deValleyHumaneSociety.org	
BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Native American Reservation Animals 928-899-3942 blackhathumane@gmail.com	DOGTREE PINES SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY 1525 S Dogtree Lane, Prescott olddogs@dogtreepines.com 667-364-8733, dogtreepines.com		RED ROSE INSPIRATION FOR ANIMA Thriftique: 31 Bell Rock Plaza, Sedon info@redroseinspiration.org 928-282-5278, redroseinspiration.org		VAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 5 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott 928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org	
BLUE MOON RESCUE & SANCTUARY 1851 E Perkinsville Rd, Chino Valley 928-925-7724, bluemoonrescue.org	HEELING HEELERS HEARTS Surprise, 623-226-2749 azblueheeler.com		RESCUE A GOLDEN OF ARIZOINA Phoenix, 602-404-9663 golden-retriever.org		VAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY EQUINE CENTER 28) 515-4947, Chino Valley yavapaihumane.org	
BRADSHAW MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 18200 S Wolf Run Trail, Mayer 928-632-9559, bradshawmountainwildlife.com	HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff 928-526-0742 highcountryhumane.org		SAVING PAWS RESCUE SHEPHERDS & MALINOIS Glendale, 480-737-6089 savingpawsrescueaz.org		APAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL RESCUE Chino Valley avapaihumanetrappers.org	
AREA DOG PARKS Thorpe Park – 788 N Thorpe Road, Flagstaff Bushmaster Park – 3150 N Alta Vista Dr, Flagstaff			SEDONA DOG PARK hru Oct 1: 6am-8pm • Oct. 1 thru April 1: 7am- 7pm Turn north on Soldier's Pass Road off State Route 89A, Sedona.		COTTONWOOD DOG PARK AT RIVERFRONT PARK Dawn to Dusk Riverfront Park Drive & N 10th St, Cottonwood	

### A Letter From Your Newly Adopted Dog or Cat

By Loree Walden, Yavapai Humane Society

Please be patient with me.

These are our first hours/days together, and I'm still trying to figure everything out.

You keep telling me that everything is okay and that I'm home, but I'm just not sure. You see, I had a home before, and I thought I belonged there and that I was loved, but

something happened, and it all changed and my whole life turned upside down.

I don't know what I did wrong. I don't know what changed for them, I don't know why they didn't want me anymore or why they just let me go. It's been very confusing for me, and I've been scared. I'm still scared.

So, please be patient with me.

I may poop or pee in this new place that you call my new home, because I'm not used to where to go yet, and I'm still very nervous. I'll get used to it all and the new routines, but it's going to take me some time.

So, please be patient with me.

I don't know this place—the smells, the rooms, the sounds. I don't know you or your routines, your mannerisms, your voice, or anything about you.

It a big adjustment for me, and for you. So let's take this day by day and work on this together.

You may make movements that scare me. Your tone of voice may scare me. You don't know my history, and I can't tell you, so all I ask is that you give me time.

So, please be patient with me.

I may not want to eat what you're giving me. Or, if I do, I may not like it or may even get sick. I've been on a special food at the shelter and that's what I'm used to. So please give me some time to get used to what you're feeding me and when you're feeding me. Trust me, I'll get used to all this new stuff.

So, please be patient with me.

I may not want to play with you or



cuddle on the couch right away. I may just want to lay in that new fluffy bed you bought for me or my crate, where I feel safe. I may just want to hide under a bed or in a corner. Just give me some time because this is all so new for me.

And even though you may want me to jump up in your bed with you right away,

it's probably not a good idea. You may get up in the middle of the night and it might spook me.

I'm not used to it here, nor am I used to you. I'm used to sleeping alone, and I may want to do that for the rest of my life. Or I may eventually want to cuddle up with you. We'll work on this together, but it's going to take time.

So, please be patient with me.

Especially if you're trying to introduce me to my new furry brothers and sisters. We may not like each other right away, it may take weeks, or even months, for us to like each other, but we need time to get used to each other.

You can't judge it in one or two days—think about how long it takes for you to make a real friend or form a trusting relationship. It's the same for me and this new family you've brought me into.

Just give us some time, let us do it at our own pace, and don't push the issue. If you do, it's going to fail, and I don't want that. Neither of us do.

So, please be patient with me.

We're starting out on a new adventure together and I'm excited, and a little nervous. I want you to be my forever home and I'll do my best to make it happen because nobody wants that more than me.

When you adopted me, they told you about the 3-3-3 Rule. It's really good advice, and if you follow it we can make this work and live together happily ever after. I know that's what I want, and I think you do, too.

So, please be patient with me. I promise it will be worth it.



Yavapai

Humane

**Society** 

#### In the first 3 days I may:

- Feel overwhelmed
- Be scared & unsure of what's going on
- Not be comfortable enough to be myself
- May not want to eat or drink
- Shut down & want to curl up in my crate or hide under the furniture
- Test my boundaries

#### After 3 weeks, I may:

- Start to settle in
- Feel more comfortable
- Realize this could be my forever home
- Figure out my environment
- Get into a routine
- Let down my guard & start showing my true personality
- Have behavior issues that start to show up

#### After 3 months, I may:

- Finally feel complete comfortable in my new home
- Build trust and a true bond with you
- Have a complete sense of security with my new family
- Be set in our routine

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8 Flagstaff-Sedona Dog April/May 2024



AT CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL, IT IS OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE THE BEST PATIENT-CENTERED CARE TO OUR COMMUNITY; Through our commitment to encouraging a positive culture, showing compassion, and cultivating growth.



### Paws for the Planet: Reducing Our Pets' Carbon Pawprint

By Solana Kline—A lifelong dog-rescue advocate and avid back-country motorcycle adventure rider.

ecological

When it comes to our four-leggers, most of us would do anything to make sure they are full, cozy, and tail-waggingly happy! We bring them in to peruse the long aisles of dog food at the ranch store and let them snag their favorite pig-ear off the shelf.

What we don't often wonder about is the sustainability of these products we buy for our pups. It's especially difficult at the large chain stores where most of the pet gear and food is manufactured out of the USA by large corporations looking to turn a profit. This industry is no small sector. The global pet industry is worth \$261 billion (World Animal Foundation, 2023) and in the US, we collectively spend 136.8 billion on pet products each year. (Source: tinyurl.com/ mm9atn8m).

Thankfully, we are seeing industrious small businesses all over the world who are creating amazing pet products made locally, sustainably, and with ingredients and materials that are non-toxic and non-carcinogenic so our pups can live healthier and longer lives while helping the planet as a whole.

So, what can we do? Here are some simple steps to reduce our pup's carbon paw-print.

#### **Buying Local and Support Small** Businesses, and Buy Made in USA

Buying locally instead of from the big corporate giants has a huge impact on our local communities and on the quality of product you are purchasing. The community driven small businesses in the pet industry are using recycled, organic, and all natural products to make everything we could ever want or need for our pups. Small businesses are the heart of our country and truly do represent the little guys. The closer we can keep our dollars to our home communities. the healthier those communities are.

When we choose to shop at our local pet stores instead of the big box



Big Sky Nap Bed



#### Dura Plush Dog Ball

pet stores are in touch with our local community and want to make sure our pups are getting the very best products and ingredients. They choose to buy Made in USA to avoid the toxic and carcinogenic materials often found in foods and materials produced by countries with lower health standards. (Yes, we are pointing the finger at you, China!)

Our local stores carry the organic, sustainable, and locally made products from small companies opting to use local human-grade ingredients and sustainable packaging. Here are some US companies that are focused on healthy, sustainable pet products that are high quality, easy on the wallet, and are built with craftmanship to last:

- Westpaw (westpaw.com)
- Cycle Dog (cycledog.com)
- The Honest Kitchen (honestpetproducts.com)
- Project Hive (projecthivepetcompany.com)

#### Buy Recycled, Nontoxic, and **Biodegradable Products!**

These small pet companies are choosing to make pet products from alternative materials like recycled plastic, natural fibers, and biodegradable materials, like Cycle Dog's Dura Plush Dog Ball, made from recycled plastics. And Westpaw's Big Sky Nap Bed made with recycled fill.

There's even the Molly Mutt company (mollymutt.com) that masterfully crafts the cozy pet bed of your four-legger's sweetest dreams! You stuff the bed with your old pillow fill which keeps the fill out of the dump and gives your pup cozy sniffs of you all day and night!

Check out the wool pet toys and

TIIRKEY RECIP

products of Friend Sheep Wool company (friendsheepwool. com), like the Eco Kitty Cave.

And to keep that dirtier side of pet life a bit greener: compostable dog poop bags are cheap and a cinch to find. The

compostable bags are stores, our money is reinvested in our local made from cornstarch and plant-based polycommunity, and the footprint mers that fully compost is lowered by lessenback into the earth (tiing the transport of nyurl.com/yeyjcu54). goods and consumers. Even swapping just (Source: tinyurl.com/ one plastic dog poo b4tuysd2) Our local bag for a compostable one makes a pawsative difference. Plas-

> tic bags are made from processed fossil fuels (like petroleum) and take 1,000 years to break down in a landfill and even then, they never fully break down, instead they become microscopic pieces of plastic that pollute toxic and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) plastic chemicals into our ecosystems and into our own human and pet bodies! (Source: tinyurl. com/yx7jf3jt)

#### Choose Food and Treats that are **Sustainable**

Dog food packs the biggest wallop in our pup's carbon footprint. Pet food makes up 30% of meat's environmental impact. (Source: tinyurl. com/d5f3end5). In pup food, look for sustainable packaging and local sustainable ingredients! Consider choosing small game like egg, chicken, lamb, or insect protein over large game like beef or bison and look for sustainability clues on the labeling such as local ingredients, pasture-raised beef, organic ingredients, free-range chicken, solar powered food production, ocean safe, etc.

The Honest Kitchen makes human grade kibble and toppers that are baked at low temperatures, use US sourced ingredients, are non-GMO, use fair trade channels, AND gives discounts to animal rescues. Our local pet food stores and Natural Grocer's carry this food, give it a go!

#### **DIY and Get Creative!**

Reuse the Recycle: All of my tail-waggers have been obsessed with recycle! The next time your hound gets frisky for a fetch, toss them an empty (and well-rinsed) plastic milk jug or a cardboard box to destroy! Watch out for sharp edges or box staples

> and obviously don't give them anything sharp like glass or metal! Once they destroy it, toss it back in the recycle. Easy peasy and FREE!

DIY: Eliminate the middleman, make food, treats, and toys yourself! Have you



larious and fun toys for your pup made from things you already have at home? (There are some fun ideas here: tinyurl. com/ph2a96b5). Or have you tried dehydrating slices of yam for your pup to chew

ever brainstormed hi-

on? Or baking up some peanut butter dog treats? Heck, my pups even love it when I toss them a giant carrot or a yam from the Prescott Farmer's Market!

Making your own food and snacks is easy and just takes a bit more consideration if you are going to cook for them full time like making balanced meals (a how-to is at tinyurl.com/5eurct26), and minding dog-toxic foods. (A list is at tinyurl. com/3pjmrpxd). Sharing our food with our pups also helps us bond as a pack, you will notice a difference in their pack behavior in no time if you start eating with them!

In the big picture of sustainability and consumption habits, our pets can have a big impact. There's a misconception that it costs an arm and a leg to buy local, organic, or sustainable products for our pets, but the reality is most of the cheap, unsustainable, and "made in China" pet products really are cheap: they aren't made to last, and they aren't made to be healthy for our pets.

When we choose local and sustainable, we choose health of our pets and our planet AND we get the best products while supporting our local small businesses! On the larger scale, we can support nonprofits that advocate for healthy pets and healthy planet via changing legislature and global business practices like the Pet Sustainability Coalition (petsustainability.org). Let's raise some paws for the planet!

Until next time, happy tails and happy trails!



Molly Mutt Bed



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Bringing Your Rescue Dog Home for the First Time – Some Tips

Adoptable dogs come in all shapes, sizes, colors and yes, personalities. At the Verde Valley Humane Society, some of our shelter dogs are happy to hop into anyone's car and all faces are to be licked. But many adoptable animals lack the confidence and trust to immediately relax in a new environment.

Your new family member may have been passed from home to home to shelter and will need time to settle in and feel secure. They may not eat for a couple of days, pace a bit, and even try to run outdoors or hop fences.

Empathize with your dog's view of what's happening. Consistent routines will help them know what's coming next. Feeding and walks at the same time each day are very helpful. Remember, your dog doesn't understand that this is their forever home. Only time will prove to them that their life will not be upended at any moment.

Be careful about keeping doors and gates secured. Accompany your new family member into your yard until they know that this is home. Some dogs have developed the habit of running from new situations. Through consistent routines, your dog will learn what is expected of them and what to expect from you.

When you arrive home with your adoptee, have the leash attached and in hand before opening your car doors. New adoptees have been known to jump out and run, becoming lost in an area they do not recognize. Keep the dog on leash as you enter your home. Show them around, then head to the door where they will be let out to do their business.

Repeat the routine at the same door every one-half hour or so. The repetition will help your dog to understand that when they stand by that door, it opens, and they can take care of business.

A dog will not know how to tell you they need to go outside without you showing them how it works at their



new home. Tending to this task immediately will also help relieve the anxiety a dog may feel when not sure how to tell you.

Schedule as many days home as possible to help your dog become comfortable before being left alone. Your dog will not understand that you are going to return when you leave. What they do know is that they are alone. Crating is a safe method of containing your dog until they understand that you'll return. Exercise your dog before you crate. A nice walk is relaxing and stress reducing, and a nap in the crate afterwards will be a natural next step.

The world is one big toy to a dog. Before you bring your new pet home put away all items of value. Remote controls, gaming consoles, glasses, and phones are intriguing temptations. These items have your scent on them. If you snack while scrolling through your phone or changing channels on the TV, yummy food smells will remain on whatever you touch. Add to that a satisfying crunch sensation when the items are bitten and chewed, and you have an irresistible doggie treat.

Shoes! For a dog, shoes are a window to the outside world. Secure loose shoes and slippers before arriving home. They tell where you have you been and what you have stepped in or on. Don't rely on your dog to make the determination as to what is a toy and what is off limits.

Be patient in guiding your fourlegged companion into a new life of trust and love. They may have never experienced such wonderful care. You are about to become the most important being in a living creature's life. You will be rewarded with the joy that has been shared between our species for thousands of years.

Enjoy your new adventure!



#### **Run Around Rylee**

Rylee was found as a stray when she was a puppy, living outside in the cold. She was rescued by an amazing local rescue group (Northern Arizona Animal Search and Rescue) and spent time with foster families before arriving at HSS in August 2023.

Rylee was cautious when she arrived. She was not even a year old, and despite loving foster homes, stability was something she had not experienced. Another place. New smells. New faces...here we go again.

It seemed Rylee wanted to trust people but was having a hard time. With most people she was standoffish at first. There was a handful of staff and volunteers who she really loved, and those people went to work to understand what made Rylee tick.

Rylee showed interest in playing with other dogs, and we learned how important this was for her to cope in the shelter. She began going out with volunteers and playing in doggy play groups. We observed how smart she was, and how she mimicked each dog she played with. She would match their energy and excitement levels and was always genuinely happy with her four-legged companions. While we were excited to finally understand this floppy eared sweetheart, her story with us was far from over.

Rylee was first adopted two months after she arrived at HSS. She was returned to the shelter two days later. She was adopted again a few weeks later, and sadly, returned within a week. She remained in our care for two months before being



adopted a third time, only to be returned less than a month later. Rylee was returned for different reasons each time, and it broke our hearts to watch her walk through the kennel doors again.

But we noticed each time Rylee returned, she was more trusting, more relaxed – and she seemed happy to be back. We can only guess it's because she lived at HSS longer than anywhere else, and though a real home had eluded her, the routine love and care she was given within our walls was the most stability she ever had in her life.

While we cared deeply for Rylee, this was no home for her. We knew it would take a patient, dog-savvy adopter to give her the patience she needed to begin life with a family.

As if on cue, a former volunteer and dog rescue veteran breezed through the doors and fell in love with our goofy cattle dog. The best part? She has two dogs at home for Rylee to play with and learn the ropes of life – a real life full of stability and love. Paws crossed that the fourth time is a charm! We have a good feeling about this, and we will never give up on you, Rylee!

If you are interested in getting involved with the Humane Society of Sedona, to help dogs like Rylee, please visit our website at humanesocietyofsedona.org or give us a call at (928) 282-4679.



#### Airpark Animal Hospital



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



Skylar's Story: How a Foster Parent Can Be a Second Chance

As an advocate for animal welfare, I often find myself drawn to the heart-wrenching stories of shelter pets in need. However, it was Skyler's plea that truly tugged at my heartstrings.

Desperate for a foster home, this sweet soul bore the scars of past abuse and neglect, serving as a poignant reminder of the harsh realities many animals face.

From the moment I brought him home, it was evident that his spirit had been nearly shattered. Cowering at the slightest movement and trembling at the sight of a leash. Skyler's progress was slow. He spent his first night curled up in the corner of his playpen and wouldn't move except for food and water. Yet, with patience, kindness, and plenty of treats, his transformation began to unfold.

From tentatively accepting plush toys to reveling in the simple joys of ear scratches and belly rubs, Skyler's journey mirrored that of many shelter pets—a gradual evolution from fear to trust, from isolation to companionship.

The pup who once cowered away from people now loves attention. He wakes me up each morning with a nose to the face and, more often than not, a toy to play with. Skyler has since learned to walk on the leash, and he loves to run and play with his foster sister. He now acts like a normal, happy puppy whose only concern in the world is playtime and mischief. Little Skyler just needed some time in a quiet, relaxing environment to remember what it means to be a puppy.

Witnessing Skyler's gradual emergence from his shell was a testament to the profound impact of fostering, and it is why I choose to be a foster parent. Beyond providing temporary shelter, fostering offers these animals a sanctuary—a place to decompress, to heal, and to rediscover the joys of life.

It's not always easy, of course. Fostering has its challenges, yet each hurdle is eclipsed by the overwhelming sense of fulfillment that accompanies every small victory. It is amazingly satisfying to see them blossom in my care and become dogs that will thrive in their forever home.

Skyler's story is but one of countless tales of resilience and redemption, underscoring the transformative power of love and compassion. As I watched him blossom into a happy, carefree pup, I couldn't help but reflect on the countless others awaiting their chance at a new beginning.

For those contemplating fostering, I wholeheartedly urge you to take the leap of faith. While farewells may be bittersweet, the joy of witnessing a foster pet find their forever home eclipses any temporary sadness. It's a journey of selflessness, empathy, and unwavering hope—one that leaves a lasting mark on both foster and furry friend alike.

To learn more about the High Country Humane Foster Program head to highcountryhumane.org/foster-opportunities.

> ~Brooke Collins, High Country Humane Pet Foster Parent



It was 2020 and the Navajo Nation was in the grips of COVID that was hitting hard everywhere. Officials learned that both a husband and wife living in Many Farms had passed away from COVID, and at least seven dogs on their property had been left on their own. Blackhat (BH) volunteers went out to the property where they observed a few adult dogs, two juveniles, and some puppies. The gate was locked, and the matriarch dog made it clear they were not welcome.

After the deceased couple's son came up from Phoenix and let them in, the work of feeding and trapping the starving dogs began. The only dog for which a foster or another rescue could not be found was the skeptical, under-socialized mama dog, Mama G or Ajiis. When someone who did not have other dogs offered to try her, BH was ecstatic.

As they bonded, Ajiis became so devoted to protecting her new owner from all the wiles of the world, that no one, and especially other dogs, could come near her. Sadly, she was returned.

A generous training center, Paw Creek, offered to train Ajiis to help her fit into her new world. She was a fast learner but still had trust and protection issues. When the trainers felt they had done what they could for her, BH once again had to face the dilemma of where to take a dog who had trouble sharing.

Just as everyone was losing hope, BH Vice President Linda Robinson offered to foster her. She had just lost her beloved pet, so her home was empty and besides, she reasoned, she would never be tempted to adopt a resolute challenging dog.

At the training facility Linda learned the guidelines and skills that Ajiis had been taught. Her first challenge presented itself immediately on the trip home when poor Ajiis got car sick the entire way. And when Linda was stopped for traffic, Ajiis squeezed herself out of a small window opening intended only to give her fresh air. They were out in the middle of nowhere and off Ajiis bound. Keeping her wits, she called out in a firm voice, as the training center taught her, for Ajiis to come back. And, thankfully, back she came.

Over the following months, their relationship built on their mutual respect and enjoyment, and it was not much longer that Linda realized that maybe Ajiis really was home after all. As Linda observed, Ajiis had become a loyal, devoted friend who stays by her side and greets each day by nuzzling her awake. Linda is glad she did not set her sights on her next "perfect" dog and, in doing that, found her perfect dog after all.

Please consider helping a dog or cat in need on the reservation, and you may be amazed with what you will gain in return. Go to blackhathumanesociety.org to learn more about how you can help.



Most animals lose their homes, through no fault of their own. IF YOU'VE BEEN CONSIDERING A NEW 4-LEGGED FRIEND, AREA SHELTERS AND RESCUES ARE READY TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR NEXT COMPANION.

ADOPTION SAVES LIVES



**BODIE:** A white 4-year-old male German Shepherd/Alaskan Husky mix. For further information, please contact the Coconino Humane Association at 928-526-1076.

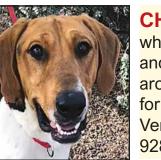


**BOOBEAR:** A very silly guy, BooBear is shy about being touched, but gets along great with other dogs. He's looking for a home with a playful dog. Boo loves to go for walks. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**BUTCH:** A big, fun-loving guy. He's always up for an adventure and will make a great companion. He's silly and goofy, with very endearing qualities. Butch weighs about 60lbs. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387

**BRITTIE:** A young medium-sized female. Brittie is a stunning bundle of energy. She is a playful soul who will bring laughter and love to your home. She loves romping with other dogs. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**CHARLIE:** A gorgeous hound who loves to sniff! He is affectionate and likes to go for walks. He weighs around 60 pounds and is looking for active adopters. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387





**JEWELL:** A 4-month-old female cattle dog mix Rez puppy. She is a gem and told she is the princess of the litter. She is playful, silly, and chatty. Blackhat Humane Society at

4lvdch@gmail.com

**BEANIE BOY:** A white 8mo male German Shepherd / Jack Russell mix maybe, 30 lbs. Crate, leash, & car trained. He's learning manners well, fun, & ready for family life. Blackhat Humane Society/foster at elmorromaynes@gmail.com.















MAXWELL: A handsome 4yo Cattle Dog mix. An active dog whose easy-going personality makes him a great fit for any household. Affectionate, friendly, great with other dogs. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

**DANTE:** A 1-year-old, 14-pound male terrier mix. He is quite a handsome and cuddly boy. He's chill and laid back, but is also playful, up for a game of fetch or a walk. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

**BABY GIRL:** A 7-month-old female Dachshund mix, weighing 14 pounds. She is a laid-back girl who enjoys snuggles, belly rubs, and a cozy nap. She would do best in a patient home. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

**BOBBLE:** A male 3-month-old Boxer mix. He is an active, playful puppy with lots of energy. He is super smart, which will make training easier. He would love an active family. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

**SAMANTHA:** A female 6-year-old sable German Shepherd. She is 88 pounds. She is a sweet and mellow girl looking for a fun home to settle down in.

Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

**LEO:** A stunning Husky mix with one blue and one brown eye. He is handsome, active, and loyal. He gets along with other dogs. Adoption fee is \$0. High Country Humane 928-526-0742

LACY: A 3yo female. Sweetest, loving companion. Well mannered, excels in leash walks, potty trained, & non-destructive. She even enjoys dressing up. Her adoption fee is now only \$50. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**GIDEON:** A most regal House Panther! He is 9 months old, glossy black with golden eyes. He is loving and playful, loves to be brushed and belly rubs. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**CHEWY:** A most handsome male long-haired tabby. A lap cat dedicated to bringing you endless cuddles & affection. Quite a talker. Fully sponsored adoption fee. High Country Humane 928-526-0742 / Foster 928-814-3746



**ALDER:** A striking brown tabby male, 6 months old. He is a sweet boy, affectionate and funny. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



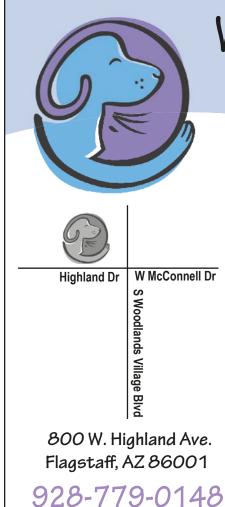
**ONYX:** A fine House Panther of shining black and golden eyes, full of unconditional love. He is 5 years old and sadly, declawed. His adoption fee has been fully sponsored. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**PEARL:** A beautiful 7-year-old cream ticked tabby lady with green eyes. She is quiet, gentle, and affectionate, a dedicated lap cat. Her adoption fee has been fully sponsored. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**MOLLY:** A beautiful and unique golden tabby with big green eyes, 1 year old. Molly loves head / chin rubs and will purr as long as you will pet her. She will make a great companion. Blackhat Humane Society 575-999-6236



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### She was Dog 132, and We Named Her Andi

By Judith Dawson



She was not the dog we wanted, the puppy we were looking for. She was all wrong for us. We named her Andi, and she was our dog for seven and half years.

My husband and I had buried our much-loved Rottweiler two weeks earlier, a dog I had when I met him, and we were "Just looking" at puppies at the city animal shelter. We turned a corner and there she was: The wrong age (5 months, give or take), the wrong size (large), the wrong hair (long, shaggy, and thick), the wrong breed (which was no breed at all), the wrong sex (female, not male). The kennel assistant told us she was a German Shepherd mix.

There must be some special training that enables people at the Animal Shelter to lie with straight faces.

When we first saw her, she was cowering in the back of her kennel. Then my husband talked to her, and she raised her head to look at him. She was his dog, and he was her person from that moment forward.

Andi was, to put it mildly, a handful. A street dog, she had been picked up, not surrendered. No one claimed her, and she had been at the shelter for about thirty days. She had obviously never been disciplined or housebroken and was an escape artist. She trusted no one (probably for good reasons), and in the beginning if you talked to her, she braced herself and cowered, waiting to be struck.

She was very wary of us for a long time. Two things never changed. First, she cowered if you approached her with any object in your hand-a stick, comb, brush, anything. My husband worked with her almost daily over the years, but that fear never changed. Second, her very favorite food was a raw potato. She stole potatoes and hid them all over the house for her entire lifetime. If that's street dog behavior, I've never heard of it before.

She couldn't be groomed because she was so afraid, so we resigned ourselves to living with a dog with the worst hairdo in the world. She was the Phyllis Diller of dogs until the day she died.

Her eyes were deep chocolate brown, and when you held her chin in your hand and looked into them, you could see that her early life had not been easy. My husband always said he could see into her soul. Looking back, I think she could see into his soul, too. She dug under our backyard chain link fence. We fastened landscape timbers all around the outside of the fence. She dug under the fence AND the timbers. We countered with more landscape timbers fastened all around the inside of the fence. She gave up digging and countered by climbing over the fence. (If I hadn't seen her, hind feet searching for a foothold, I wouldn't have believed it.)

She sat outside the fence and never went anywhere. We countered with an electric fence inside the chain link fence. She-and we-went through the training process, we were assured it was safe, and she went out alone while we watched. She heard the buzz, kept walking, and got a shock which caused her to howl and urinate.

My husband ran to her and carried this big dog, her hair wet with urine, into the house. The fence came out after a very brief discussion with the installer. A six-foot-tall privacy fence was installed, and Andi was finally secure. Of course, by that time, in true Andi fashion, she was no longer interested in leaving and never made another attempt.

Her specialty was digging holes, holes for the sake of digging holes. She dug holes deep enough to sit in with only her head showing. She never buried anything, and once the hole was finished to her specifications she moved on to the next hole. It was her full-time passion.

My husband's health deteriorated rapidly, and he went on dialysis. Andi was confused because she didn't understand his new schedule. When he came home, she was confused by the new medical smells on him, and the bandages.

He would come home, sit in his recliner, and I would warm a quilt in the dryer and wrap it around him. He would quietly watch television for an hour or so until he recovered his strength. Andi watched from the kitchen doorway. This went on for two weeks, through seven treatments.

At the end of the second week, he came home and sat in his recliner. I brought the warmed quilt in, and she jumped into his lap–all seventy pounds of her. I wrapped the quilt around both of them, and she relaxed and leaned against him.

She learned his schedule, and they sat quietly to-

gether, watching television, every time he came home from dialysis. Somehow, she knew he needed the comfort she provided, and I believe he needed her. I would hear him softly talking to her while she cuddled against him.

My husband was hospitalized frequently, during which she waited and worried and was ecstatic when he came home. He kept telling me everything would be all right. He kept telling Andi everything would be all right.

Andi and I knew better.



Two years later, he came home from dialysis, sat with Andi, stood up and collapsed.

I hung her photo on the bulletin board across from his hospital bed so he would see her if he opened his eyes, and I went in every day and told him how much we missed him. I told him stories of Andi's latest adventures (burying my wallet in the backyard, hiding the car keys under the deck, and getting trapped under the deck in the process). I know he heard me.

My husband died Christmas Day night. I came home and sat in his recliner for the first time ever, wrapped the quilt around myself and grieved for a life cut too short. I cried for myself, for my loss, my loneliness, my fears. Slowly and cautiously Andi crept into my lap. I wrapped the quilt around both of us, and we sat in that chair until the sun came up.

I slept on the living room sofa for about two months, Andi at my feet. When I found the strength to go into the bedroom, she followed and slept next to me on the bed, and that's where she stayed. Every night I repeated my husband's words to her: "It will be all right."

She never went back to being the handful she once was but grew more and more quiet, thinner and thinner as time went on. She and I went back and forth to the veterinarian, but other than one attack of pancreatitis, there were no diagnosed health issues despite all sorts of tests.

Just before her eighth birthday she began to sleep on quilts at the foot of my bed, no longer able to jump onto the bed. One morning, I bent over to say good morning to her and found she had died quietly during the night.

> The necropsy indicated sudden cardiac arrest. I think she grieved to death.

> I took her body to the Veterinarian's office for cremation, and when I left and kissed her good-bye, I whispered in her ear, "Andi, go forward. It will be all right."

> And it is all right, and I'm sure she's with her master, both of them at peace. I hope they're wrapped in a warm quilt, watching television.

Yes, looking back, she was the perfect dog for us. We just didn't know it right away.





# Plan a Pet-Friendly Lake Havasu City 'Paw-ty'

#### By Stacey Wittig

Now is the ideal time for you and your sweet pup to explore the desert oasis of Lake Havasu City. Known as the Spring Break Party Capital of the western United States, this river town offers a laid-back vibe beyond its seasonal festivities on the water. When the university crowd dissipates, the city and its lake transform into the perfect watery setting for your pet-friendly paw-ty.

Located on the shores of Lake Havasu and the magnificent Colorado River, the city promises scenic beauty and a warm welcome for you and your furry companion.

PLAN A PET-FRIENDLY LAKE HAVASU GITY 'PAW-TY'

Share the joy of being on the water with your fourlegged traveling companion.

Don't have a boat? Not to worry: Getmyboat. com, the world's largest boat rental and charter marketplace, with over 150,000 listings in 184 countries, covers 9,300 destinations, including Lake Havasu City.

A Getmyboat report named Lake Havasu City 2023's sixteenth most popular boating city in the United States! Getmyboat.com makes it easy for you to rent a boat from an owner the same way you rent an apartment on Airbnb. Some of the options that are dog-friendly on Lake Havasu include:

- Pontoon rental on Lake Havasu, a dog-friendly pontoon rental from Aaron, with prices starting at \$550/day, holds up to twelve (human) passengers!
- Rent a furry friend-friendly wake-surfing/ wakeboarding boat on Lake Havasu from Omar, with prices starting at \$150/hour.
- Dog-accompanied patrons are welcome on the four-hour charter offered on the 28'



Boating with pets under the London Bridge in Lake Havasu City. Photo courtesy Stacey Wittig.

Magic Deck Boat from Havasu Excursion, with prices starting at \$150/hour. You must discuss this with the owner before your dog is approved. Pet fees apply, so check the listing for details.

#### Boating Tips for You and Your Four-Legged Sailor

Some hosts require pets to wear life safety vests at all times, while others want toenails filed. Make an appointment with your groomer before you go or call PetSmart Grooming in Lake Havasu City at 928-764-2500 to schedule a Nail Trim and Grind.

Ideal weather conditions and times for wake surfing and wakeboarding are sunrise, 6 a.m. to 12 p.m., as conditions on the river get windy and choppy in the afternoon.

Pet-friendly accommodations include Days Inn by Wyndham Lake Havasu, Havasu Falls RV Resort, and The Nautical Beachfront Resort. As usual, check pet policies in advance. Pet policies vary significantly, so look for information on pet fees, weight limits, breed restrictions, and the number of pets allowed per room. Then, call the hotel directly to book or make online reservations through the hotel's specific page for pet-friendly accommodations. This can sometimes offer more detailed information and even special packages for pets.

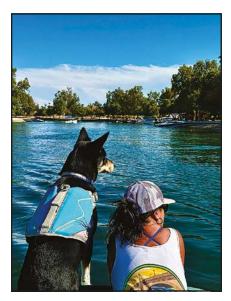
When visiting Lake Havasu City with your four-legged friends, avoid The Dog Days of Summer, the most oppressive summer period, between July 3 and August

11 when the average high temperature is 109° and the average low is 84°. That's why local pups need an INDOOR dog park. Check it out at That Dane Bar.

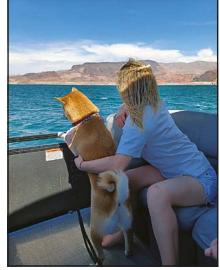
Lake Havasu City has four off-leash dog parks, if you include the one at Love's Truck Stop on I-40 and Hwy 95. But it seems we found the local favorite off-leash dog park at Lions Dog Park on Bridgewater Channel near London Bridge. The off-leash, enclosed, shady lawn is part of the London Bridge Beach park.

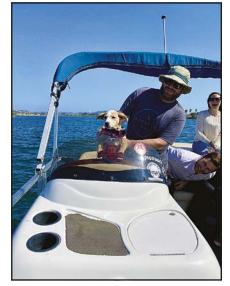
We enjoyed noshing at Javelina Cantina right off of the London Bridge. Yes, that's a familiar name since their sister restaurant in Sedona also has pet-friendly patio seating. Your server will even bring a water bowl for Fido with your order of margs! Or grab a pet-friendly outdoor table at Hangar 24, a casual brewery, bar, and grill in an airport hangar-themed space.

Stacey Wittig loves writing about traveling with pets from her home outside Flagstaff, Arizona. Follow her globetrotting adventures at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com.









Photos courtesy Getmyboat.





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