

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

Also Serving Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Jerome, & NAZ

February/March
FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



York, Pennsylvania - Paws-itively Awesome

Happy Tails &
Happy Trails

Pet Ownership
Then & Now, Part II

TO A GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS

Introducing Our Cover Dog ~ Izzy



Yavapai
Humane
Society

MILO



Milo is an American Blue Heeler/Shepherd Mix has been at YHS since September of 2024. He's about 5 years old, and a little shy but he loves Sebastian (our Adoption Supervisor). Milo is ready to hug you, do a little dance, love you and be your bestie! He just needs someone to give him a chance... Is it you?



OPT
to
ADPT
OSO



Oso is a 1 1/2-year-old Catahoula Leopard Dog with a personality as vibrant as his unique coat! Since arriving at Yavapai Humane Society in May 2024, Oso has captured hearts with his sweet, affectionate nature and eagerness to connect with people like Karinda (our Adoptions Lead). This clever boy is a fast learner who thrives on attention and loves interactive adventures, whether it's a fun game of fetch or a relaxing walk by your side.

928-445-2666
yavapaihumane.org



YHS AVAILABLE DOGS

1625 Sundog Ranch Rd
Prescott, AZ



Team Charity Case

est. 2003

TeamCharityCase.com

Team Charity Case is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness for organizations helping animals, the homeless and kid's educational programs across Arizona!



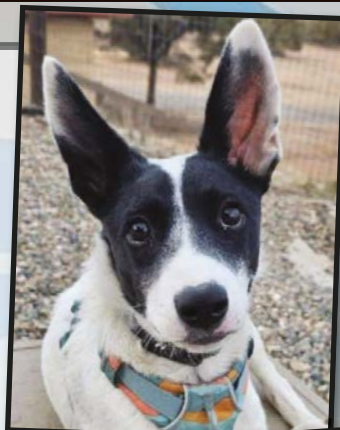
@TeamCharityCase

TEAM CHARITY CASE Feature Success Story

Faith's story is one of resilience, hope, and the incredible dedication of those working tirelessly to save reservation dogs from heartbreaking circumstances. It shines a light on the transformative work of Rez Roads Rescue an organization dedicated in their mission to give these animals a second chance at life.

Faith was discovered in the nick of time by a compassionate member of Rez Roads Rescue. She had been left in a ditch, a spot that was bulldozed over the very next day. Had Faith not been found, she would have been buried alive—a thought so devastating it's almost impossible to comprehend. Stories like Faith's are far too common, but thanks to organizations like Rez Roads, there is hope. When United Animal Friends connected Team Charity Case with Chantel from Rez Roads, the collaboration became a lifeline for Faith.

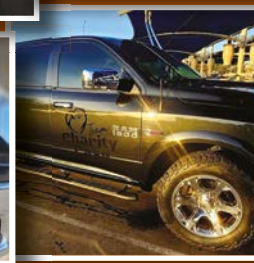
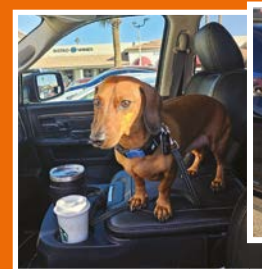
The incredible team at Rez Roads took immediate action to save her, ensuring she received the care and protection she desperately needed. Once rescued, Team Charity Case stepped up to transport Faith to Arizona, where her journey to recovery began.



Big congrats to Richie, our 2024 Compassion For Animals Award!

Richie's dedication to Team Charity Case, love for animals, and unwavering support at events inspire us all. We're so grateful for your selfless spirit and loyalty.

Enjoy the RAM 1500 Laramie Eco Diesel 4x4 with 42K miles—perfect for more adventures with CJ. Thank you for rocking the Team Charity Case orange and being the bright star you are!



Just a Few of the Animal Rescues We Support!



Flagstaff-Sedona Dog

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FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

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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



Izzy, Our Cover Dog

Dog's Name: My formal name is Entourage Red Hot and my call name is Izzy.

Hometown: Prescott Valley but originally hail from Texas.

Age: Seven years young.

Favorite brand of kibble: First Mate wild pacific caught fish meal & oats formula.

Favorite people food: I don't eat people food. My mom has tried to give me veggies, but I don't care for them.

Favorite toy: I'm too sophisticated to play with toys. They aren't my thing.

Favorite outdoor activity: Hiking in the forest.

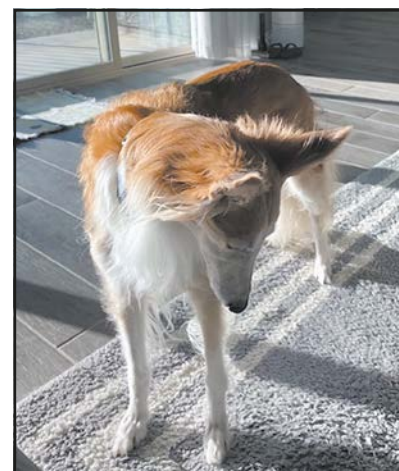
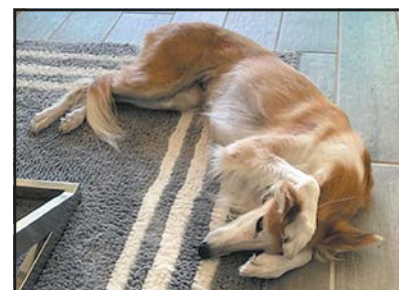
Favorite indoor activity: Sleeping and lounging around.

Favorite nap spot: On the sofa.

Fitness regimen: I typically walk 3-4 miles a day or go on hikes. I'm a running dog but don't really care if I run much anymore.

Describe your perfect canine pal: I have to say I prefer humans, but my mom prefers dogs, so we get along great! I do have a couple of hiking buddies, and we enjoy each other's company if we ignore each other. It's kind of nice to have big dog buddies to protect me while I'm hiking.

Describe your perfect day: My perfect day is to do anything with my mom. We are inseparable! I've been in my forever home now with her for a little over 2 years. A perfect day also is to eat, sleep, walk and do it all over again. I also like to visit people because I'm a therapy dog. I get a lot of attention and people smile so that makes me feel good.



Tucker's Take

Trailing a Tale

"Hazel, Hazel, wake up for a minute."

Hazel raised her ever-alert, upright ears before opening her eyes. Tucker's tone didn't seem urgent, but had a touch of anxiousness to it. Radar (ears), indicated no impending doom or the sound of the biscuit jar opening. So eyes reluctantly opened.

Hazel rolled onto her back, slightly annoyed? "What is it, Tuck?"

"I'm really late with my column, Mom's giving me The Look, and I can't find Dad. You took a vacation from your column, so... I was wondering if you have an extra story I could use?"

"I got nothing Tuck, sorry." Hazel rolled onto her side, her back toward Tuck because she didn't want to see his disappointment.

She heard Tuck's front paws prance in nervous energy and sighed in empathy with her pack brother. Tucker, as the other senior with Haze, is privately the closest to her. Just as the two juveniles, Pru and Kiera, they had their own private world between them.

"What do you mean you got nothing? Your column is due shortly, you had all that time off, and you don't even have an idea to share?"

Tucker paced at the foot of the bed while Hazel, above him, regretted waking up. Now she was getting anxious about her column.

Tuck leapt up on the bed and laid down next to Hazel. "Maybe we could do that brain storm thing Dad talks about. You know, just throw out ideas and see what sounds good?"

Hazel shifted her position slightly, her back still to him. "I don't like storms. I never liked that term. Lightning outside is bad enough, I don't want it in my head."

Tucker laid his head on Hazel's side (a very rare move for a pack sheriff). "It's just a turn of phrase. C'mon Haze, work with me here."

Both pack seniors became silent as they tried to think of a solution to a shared problem. Outside the bedroom window, sunshine gave way to thick clouds that made the bedroom seem as if it had floated away to a more peaceful realm where the only proper response would be... to... sleep... perchance to dream. Breathing deepened, eyes closed, close body-warmth comforted anxious minds as fur bodies began to drift away with the Sandman's song.

BOOOOF! BounceBounceBounce!!!

"Hey, what are the old folks up to? Dad taught me to bounce on the bed! We were listening to



a song—something like, 'I heard it through the grey mind'... (BounceBounce)... and Dad said—are you guys even listening—and Dad said the song had a perfect groove and showed me by bouncing on the edge of the bed and used the tennis ball to get me to bounce with him... and it was fun 'til Mom asked if Dad was done dusting... and... What are you two seniors doing, anyway?"

What the two seniors were doing—since Pru's carrier-deck landing in the center of the bed—was restraining themselves from running Pru off in a manner that would... well... cause a negative response from Dad or Mom.

Without raising his muzzle to look at Pru, Tuck took a serious and quiet tone. "Hazel and I are brain storming."

Pru snorted. "More like brain snoring, I would say." She bounced big for playful emphasis.

Hazel bristled. "We're trying to come up with a story for my column."

Tuck snorted and pushed his muzzle down on Hazel's side.

"Oh," said Hazel. "Tuck's story is also due. So go play with Keira while we grownups work."

"I can't." Pru plopped down next to Tuck since nobody would bounce with her. "Kiera's in timeout with Mom because she chewed the corner off of a dish towel. She's pouting in the office with Mom, and I got chased out for taking bits of paper out of the garbage can."

Pru (for no particular reason other than boredom) started pushing her muzzle under Tucker's. What Hazel had just said suddenly replayed in her head.

"Story!? Dad told me a story last night after you two went to bed early."

Tucker raised his head to look at Pru. "You can stay *only* if you stop bouncing and tell us Dad's story."

Pru rolled onto her back and kicked her legs the way she would if she were upright and allowed to bounce. In rapid-fire fashion, she relayed:

"So we're outside late, late, and y'all were asleep and Dad was looking up at the sky toward the cold-wind direction and he said, 'Keep at him boys, He's getting tired'...

"And so I'm looking around

trying to see who we're talking to, and Dad starts laughing at me and tells me he was talking at the Big Dipper, only he didn't see it as the Big Dipper anymore because a Mohawk man told him that it was a giant bear being pursued by three young warriors who were Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois as most know them by...

"And so these three were brothers, and they were the fastest runners and best hunters in their area, so they were picked to hunt down a giant bear that had attacked villages just to the west. The bear would attack at night and tear up longhouses, eat all the food and hurt many people.

"The young men began tracking the bear westward, and in no time they found villages where he had just been. They continued tracking, crossing rivers, running through endless seas of prairie grass and climbing mountains. Their hunt began in early Summer, and by late Fall they began to gain distance on the bear. The tracks became fresher, and the men knew the bear would be looking to hibernate and hadn't been eating enough while on the run. They'd catch up to him soon.

"One cold, bitter day the young men caught sight of the giant bear just east of the mountains in Flagstaff. At the moment they saw him, the bear caught their scent. Knowing he didn't have the strength to outpace the relentless men much longer, the bear did the only thing he could think of. He ran full out to the mountains and grabbed the peak with his left paw and flung himself into the sky.

"The young men, determined to finished what they had started, leaped into the sky and have continued their hunt to this very day... And Dad said that in the Winter, the bear wants to come back to the earth to hibernate and he comes way down towards the horizon but the men are still hot on his trail.

"So that's why Dad said what he said to the sky, and he told me that after hearing that story and sleeping under the stars in the desert, he had the sudden realization that a clock's hands run the wrong way. So that's what he told me, but I forgot to ask him what a clock is."

Tucker laid his head back down on Hazel's side, "A clock is that disk thing on the wall that Dad looks at when we start alerting him to mealtime. He looks at it and it tells him what to say—like, you know, 'It's not time yet' or 'Not even close, guys' or 'Can't you wait twenty minutes?'"

Pru had stopped kicking her non-bouncing paws while contemplating clocks and if Mom had one that would tell her that Kiera could come and play now. With that thought, she bounded off to find out.

"So, Hazel, despite Pru's blathering on, did you think of any story ideas?"

"Not single one. Sorry Tuck."

~Tucker Oso



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Pet Ownership

5 WAYS TO BE RESPONSIBLE





As we look back on 2024, we send out hopeful thoughts for a better year in 2025 and less animal suffering but it does seem never ending. We are grateful for the dedicated supporters who have brought reservation dogs and cats into their lives, either as fosters or adopters, and helped us save so many stray animals. It helps brighten a tough struggle that rescues live with, especially on the reservation where an estimated 250,000 free-roaming dogs and cats are struggling.

As an all-volunteer organization with no buildings and limited overhead, the bulk of our donations are dedicated to the animals we save. We have had just under 200 adoptions in 2024, and we wish we could have saved more but every one saved is a dog or cat that is no longer struggling on the streets. We currently have almost 50 animals in

foster care that are either up for adoption or being worked with so that they may become adoptable.

Many people do not realize the challenges of balancing animal rescue across four State lines and vast reservation distances with limited medical resources and not enough fosters. Add to that the challenges of bringing in animals with unknown medical or behavior conditions and it can feel daunting.

One very special girl who comes to mind is Ginger. Here was this frail and shivering dog, wandering alone over a year ago on a dark and freezing night, when she was sighted by her current foster mom as she was leaving work. Upon gazing down at her sweet face pressed against her leg, Margaret could not say no.

Ginger had her ears cut off before she was found, and while she is amazingly loving with people, she does not share well with other animals and needs to have a family to herself. She is petite and so sweet to humans, has a striking



tiger-striped coat and an adorable underbite. Plus Ginger is a low keyed easy keeper, preferring to be inside curled up by the couch rather than exploring the outdoors.

She has been waiting for a very long time for her special person with a patient dedicated foster and we know there is someone out there just perfect for this precious girl. If someone has no other pets and is willing to see what a charmer she is, they will not be disappointed. Please spread the word and help us help Ginger into her new deserving home.

Fortunately, most of the free-roaming dogs on the reservation are acclimated to other dogs which makes fostering and training much easier so if you have a heart for homeless dogs or cats and want to lend a hand, we would love to tell you more about the gratifying work Blackhat does. Please look us up at blackhathumanesociety.org

(Rescue Tales continued on page 10)



CALENDAR

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, first-served. Last Sat of each month, 12p-3p



Rescue Resources

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



AARF ANIMAL RESCUE 6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com 928-925-7219, aarfrescue.net	COCONINO HUMANE ASSOCIATION 3501 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff 928-526-1076, coconinohumane.org	HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg 928-684-8801 wickenburghumane.com	SAVING PAWS RESCUE SHEPHERDS & MALINOIS Glendale, 480-737-6089 savingpawsrescueaz.org
ARIZONA BORDER COLLIE RESCUE Tempe, 480-422-5366 azbcr.org	DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Glendale, 480-899-5227 dlraz.org	LITTLE ORPHAN ANIMALS Mayer, 678-206-7505 orphananimals@aol.com	TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY 928-793-2364, tubacityhumanesociety.org
ARK CAT SANCTUARY Parks, 928-635-5909 arkcatsanctuary.org	DOGTREE PINES SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY 1525 S Dogtree Lane, Prescott olddogs@dogtreepines.com 667-364-8733, dogtreepines.com	MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE 928-445-5411 misskittyscatthouse.org	UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS Prescott, 928-778-2924 unitedanimalfriends.org
BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY Native American Reservation Animals 928-899-3942 blackhathumane@gmail.com	FREEDOM FRENCHIE RESCUE Mesa, (630) 345-0493 freedomfrenchierescue.org	PEOPLE FOR PAWS AZ RESCUE peopleforpawsaz.org Info@peopleforpawsaz.org	VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood 928-634-7387 VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.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	PETEY'S PLAYGROUND 22448 State Highway 89, Yarnell peteysplayground@gmail.com 928-713-1375, peteysplayground.org	YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott 928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org
CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER 1904 Voss Drive, Chino Valley cvas@chinoaz.net , 928-636-4223 x7 chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption	HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff 928-526-0742 highcountryhumane.org	RED ROSE INSPIRATION FOR ANIMALS Thriftique: 31 Bell Rock Plaza, Sedona info@redroseinspiration.org 928-282-5278, redroseinspiration.org	YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY EQUINE CENTER (928) 515-4947, Chino Valley yavapaihumane.org
CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY Daytime 928-925-1926, Prescott Valley	HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA 2115 Shelby Dr 928-282-4679 humanesocietyofsedona.org	RESCUE A GOLDEN OF ARIZONA Phoenix, 602-404-9663 golden-retriever.org	YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL RESCUE Chino Valley yavapaihumanetrappers.org

AREA DOG PARKS

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Thorpe Park – 788 N Thorpe Road, Flagstaff
Bushmaster Park – 3150 N Alta Vista Dr, Flagstaff

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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.

COTTONWOOD DOG PARK AT RIVERFRONT PARK
Dawn to Dusk
Riverfront Park Drive & N 10th St, Cottonwood

Reason 117 to Adopt a Dog

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VOTED BEST VETERINARY CLINIC SINCE 2003



New Year, New Resolution: Become an Adult Dog Foster with High Country Humane

At High Country Humane, we have one mission: saving lives. Every day, our shelter reaches maximum capacity, brimming with wonderful dogs who deserve love, care, and a second chance. But we can't do it alone. Fosters—like YOU—are the heart of our mission, especially for our adult dogs.

Adult dogs in shelters face unique challenges. Many struggle with kennel breakdown, a term that describes the anxiety and stress caused by long-term stays in a kennel environment. This can lead to deteriorating mental and physical health, making it even harder for these dogs to thrive or find permanent homes. The solution? A foster home.

By welcoming a dog into your home—even temporarily—you're offering them a vital break from the shelter. The comfort of a home environment improves their health, temperament, and overall well-being. They relax, decompress, and show their true personalities, making it easier for them to find forever families. For the dogs, it's lifechanging. For you, it's profoundly rewarding.

Fostering an adult dog doesn't require a long-term commitment or any special expertise. We provide everything you need—food, supplies, medical care, and 24/7 support from our foster team.

All we need from you is a little space, some time, and a lot of love. Whether you have a cozy apartment or a big backyard, there's a dog waiting for a safe and loving place to rest their paws.

The new year is the perfect time to make a difference. As you consider your resolutions for 2025, why not add "Saving lives" to the list? Fostering is more than just housing a dog—it's giving them hope, a future, and a chance to shine. Plus, the bond you'll form with your foster dog will bring joy and fulfillment you never expected.

High Country Humane is always in need of adult dog fosters, and we're here to guide you every step of the way. Whether it's for a few weeks or a couple of months, your contribution matters.



Margot in the comfy bed provided by High Country and her foster.

Ready to make a difference? Reach out to our foster department at foster@highcountryhumane.org. Together, we can save lives, one foster home at a time.



Holiday Hope: Comet's Tail



The holiday season is in the rearview for many of us. But for Comet, this season marked a sad anniversary that no dog wants to celebrate.

Comet was originally brought to the Humane Society of Sedona as a three-month-old puppy in December 2023. He came in with some littermates right before Christmas, and they were all given cute reindeer names to accompany the season. Each darling puppy was scooped up quickly, including Comet.

We thought that would be the end of our story with the wired hair reindeer pups, outside of the occasional adoption update. But when April 2024 rolled around, Comet found himself back in our care after he grew too large for the home he had found.

We all took it in stride—these things happen in rescue. Living situations change, sometimes adoptions end up not being a good fit. Nothing our bouncy, freckle-faced boy couldn't handle. Even though he was quite a bit larger than when we last saw him,

Comet's personality was as bright and shiny as we remembered. Just a happy dog, playful as ever, and quite affectionate as well. No problem finding this boy a new home... or so we thought. But days have turned into weeks, weeks have turned into months, and Comet is still here.

This past December, we reflected on the fact that Comet (outside of the three months he spent in a home) has lived his entire life at our shelter. How could this be? Despite being a staff and volunteer favorite, Comet's meet-and-greets have been few and far between, and our hearts are just so heavy for this once hopeful and bright-eyed pup.

Comet is an overall amazing pup, but he does have a few quirks—don't we all? Since he has been in a shelter for most of his life, it's hard to know if these are personality traits or due to his environment. The shelter is stressful for all animals, despite their age or length of stay.

Comet is a smart dog, and we know he can get bored easily. When left alone for long periods of time (like in a kennel all day) he can get... mischievous. He is just a big puppy after all!

Comet has also shown reactivity to other dogs here, but when he's visited volunteer homes, he's been okay with dogs. We think this may be situational, but a meet-and-greet with any potential doggy siblings is always recommended.

Comet is really a sweet dog and very eager to please. He loves to play in the park and be doted upon by his friends here. Butt scratches are probably his favorite thing! He learns quickly and is highly trainable.

We think if given a chance to be a part of a family where he has a stable, loving, and stimulating environment, he will blossom into even more of an amazing companion.

Comet is just over a year old and weighs around 60 lbs. As with all our adopted animals, HSS would provide post-adoption support for Comet's new family.

If you are interested in Comet, please call us at the shelter 928-282-4679. If you are not able to adopt or foster him, you can still help him by sharing his story with your friends and family. The more people who know about Comet, the better chance he has of finding his forever family, and we need your help getting the word out!

Please help us find this goofy, affectionate, funny dog the loving home he so deserves.



Helping Dogs Heal: How Underdog Changes Lives for Rez Dogs

Story by Jennifer DeFosse

At Underdog Animal Rescue & Rehab, every dog's journey to a forever home begins with patience, compassion, and a commitment to transformation. During our monthly free/low-cost veterinary clinics on the Navajo Nation, we intake strays and unwanted litters. These pups will return with us to our Rescue Ranch in Moab, where they will become our newest Underdogs.

Many of the dogs we rescue from the reservation have never interacted with humans prior to being rescued. They have spent their lives relying on survival instincts, living in packs, and navigating harsh environments. As a result, they are often fearful of people and unfamiliar with the world beyond their immediate surroundings.

Central to this transformation is Cameron, Underdog's behaviorist and trainer. Cameron works tirelessly to help our Underdogs overcome their fears and build the confidence they need to thrive. Her approach focuses on trust-building and socialization, creating safe, predictable environments where dogs can feel secure and start to blossom.

Through positive reinforcement, pack walks, and individualized training sessions, Cameron teaches each dog essential life skills, such as leash walking, responding to commands, and navigating unfamiliar environments.



Cameron, Underdog's behaviorist and trainer. Photo by Chris Morgan.

Airpark Animal Hospital



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

Cameron's work doesn't stop when the dogs leave Underdog. She provides continued support to adopters, offering guidance and resources to ensure a smooth transition from rescue to home. This extra layer of care not only reduces adoption returns but also strengthens the bond between pets and their new families.

The results of this work are extraordinary. Dogs who once cowered in fear now wag their tails with joy. They transform from scared strays into happy, confident companions, ready to embrace their forever homes. At Underdog, Cameron's dedication exemplifies our organization's commitment to giving every dog the second chance they deserve.



Gremlin

er, predators, and a lack of food. Their physical and emotional scars tell stories of survival that no pet should have to endure.

It's hard not to wonder why we don't see more people canvassing neighborhoods, posting on social media, or contacting every possible resource to find their missing pets.

Our shelters do everything we can to reconnect these lost souls with their families—scanning for microchips, posting pictures online, and holding animals for the legally required period to give their owners time to claim them. But in many cases, those owners never come.

The bond between humans and their pets is meant to be lifelong. These animals rely on us for everything—food, shelter, and love. When that bond is broken, the ripple effect is devastating, not just for the pet but for all of us who see their pain firsthand. It's a reminder of the responsibility we have to keep our animals safe, to ensure their collars have up-to-date ID tags, and to microchip them in case the unthinkable happens.

For those of us in the rescue world, every stray animal is a touching story. Like Pudge, a 160-lb. Mastiff who came to us in June. He was the absolute sweetest boy who was just a gentle giant and became a staff and volunteer favorite with his slobbery kisses and hugs. Pudge wasn't microchipped and no one was looking for him. Why not? We'll never know. But,

Pudge had a very happily ever after when he was adopted in October and is now in his forever home where he gets as much love as he gives.

Eden was a beautiful Australian Cattle Dog/Boxer Mix who came to YHS in October of 2023. She was running loose and luckily brought to us by YACO. She was such a charming lady with an amazing personality. A quick learner who loved to stay active and was always eager to try new things and make all of us proud.

She adored lounging around for cuddles and having her ears scratched. She had the most endearing "wink" when she saw one of us coming and showed off her happy tail whenever she was out playing. Her happily ever after happened 1 year and 1 day after she first came to us when she was finally adopted and is now living her perfect life with her new furever family.

While we are grateful for the chance to offer them a safe haven, we also hope for a future where fewer animals are left wandering and more people recognize the importance of being proactive, vigilant, and deeply committed to the well-being of their furry family members. These animals deserve nothing less.

What is rescue? What does it mean to you? We are grateful!

Our dogs are real, their stories are very real, and helping them to recover, trust, and find happy homes is why we are a rescue. "Saving One by One...Until There Are None" is our mission, and we offer a means to get involved and make a difference.

2024 was an unusual year for us with fewer adoptions (but some great ones), so fewer intakes. But our amazing volunteer walkers stepped up big time and gave our residents quality time six days a week. Most important, with the amazing Chino Valley Animal Hospital, we were able to create a low-cost spay/neuter program for our communities, and will

build on the 186 pets already done. Thank you to all those responsible owners.

2025 will also have challenges, but we hope people are becoming more aware of the problems in shelters and rescues and will do their best to keep their pets. If adoption is in your future, please consider all the options. Such amazing animals are everywhere waiting.

Can you help? The answer is a definite yes on helping. There are so many ways: there is a comfort zone in the world of rescue for everyone. If you are physically able, you can provide walks, transport, help at adoptions, work on our property, build, repair, create a garden or a flowerbed.

If you are not able, do you belong to a group or a club that could hold a fundraiser or donation drive? Have a birthday or anniversary fundraiser. Are you part of a larger community where you could write stories about us or promote our dogs? Networking is critical if you are on any social media sites.

Could you donate? We are volunteer-based and there is always a need. We encourage monthly donations, no matter how small, for constant dollars provide security in many ways. If you tour our facility, you'll understand who we are and why everyone can help.

To schedule a tour, call us at 928-925-7219. You can also follow us on aarfanimalrescue.net or Facebook. Sign up on our website for e-newsletters to keep up with AARF happenings. We are waiting to welcome you!



Laser Receives Governor's Award

In early December, Governor Katie Hobbs presented LASER with the 2024 Governor's Volunteer Award for Disaster Services, and several LASER volunteers made a trip to the State Capitol

(Rescue Tales continued on page 13)



With shelters nationwide facing overcrowding, the need for adoption has never been more urgent. Each year, millions of dogs and cats enter shelters, all hoping for a chance at a better life. By adopting, you're not only gaining a loyal companion but also changing a life.

When you choose to adopt, you're making a profound difference, not only for the pet you bring home but also for the animal who takes its place in the shelter. The urgency to adopt cannot be overstated, as every adoption helps alleviate the overcrowding crisis and gives another animal a chance to thrive.

Those of us who work in animal rescue organizations are constantly amazed—and heartbroken—by the sheer number of stray animals that come through our doors. These are beloved pets who, for one reason or another, became separated from their families. What puzzles us most is why more humans aren't actively searching for them, putting every effort into reuniting with their lost companions.

By the time many of these animals arrive at our shelters, they are often malnourished, frightened, and emotionally shaken. Some have clearly been wandering alone for weeks or even months, battling harsh weath-

RESCUE NEWS



BONDED PAIR!!! I'm Iris! And I'm Lilly! We're a loving and loyal bonded pair that ended up at High Country Humane when our owner passed. We're looking for our next adventure with a new master to love. If it's you, Call High Country Humane. 928-526-0742



I'm **SAMMY** – Your New Best Friend! I'm 50 lbs of smart, fun and a cuddly boy. I'm here to steal your heart; fully potty trained and I walk like a dream. Call High Country Humane 928-526-0742



SWEETIE is a petite 1yo 30lb. cattledog mix. Loving & playful but still shy around new things. Needs a home that understands. Prefers the company of humans. blackhathumanesociety.org or 928 899-3942



Hi, I'm **NEXUS**, sweet and gentle gal looking for a cozy place to spend my golden years. I'm ready to find a loving, quiet home where I can feel adored and get lots of pets. Could that be with you? Call High Country Humane 928-526-0742



GINGER is a hoot of a girl and at 2 years old, is both petite and polite. If you are a one-dog sort of family & ready for a devoted congenial companion, she is your girl. 928 899-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org



CYRUS is a fully vetted 40lb. 6mo Australian Cattledog mix. He'd make a great agility pup. Does well with dogs and cats, but ready to totally bond with his dedicated person. 928- 899-3942 or blackhathumanesociety.org



I'm **SAMANTHA** and I am a gorgeous 4yo, 88lb female German Shepherd mix. Incredibly sweet & affectionate. I prefer to be the only dog in the home, as I like all the attention. Call Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



SABRINA is a gentle young adult lab mix. She warms up quickly to a soft touch, is good with other dogs & is fully vetted. Please consider giving Sabrina a chance in a loving home. blackhathumanesociety.org or 928 899-3942



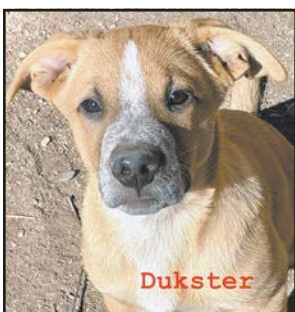
I'm **RUSH!** A handsome, cuddly, and solid 65lbs 1yo Husky mix with piercing eyes & a heart full of love. I'm affectionate, charming, curious, loyal, playful, & even a little quirky. Call Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



HASAN is a Dane/husky with a loving, friendly attitude who is congenial with dogs & cats. With lots of energy, he's a big boy- that just means more to love! Go to blackhathumanesociety.org or call 928 899-3942



I'm **MELO!** I am a handsome, sweet, and easy going; 4 yr old pit mix. I was found as a pup in Maricopa County. I have a PAWSitive attitude and I'm looking for my fur-ever home. Call Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



DUKE is a big personality in a little man's suit. He is 3 months but has a lot of spunk and friskiness. He is friendly with dogs and cats. He may end up 25-30 pounds. blackhathumanesociety.org or 928 899-3942



I'm **COMET** and I am a 1yo Australian Cattle Dog mix. I'm handsome & I've always got a smile on my face! Patiently waiting for my forever family to find me, & I have faith they will. Call Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



I'm **ARMANI!** I'm a sweet 6mo 55lb & active. I enjoy walks & have a blast playing with other dogs. I'm a big fan of sniffing everything on walks & a good zoom around the yard! Call Verde Valley Humane Society (928) 634-7387



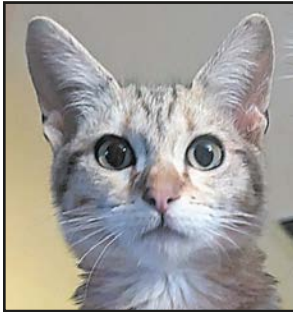
I'm **BROWNIE!** I'm a big 60lb boy. I can sit and I like to walk close to my humans. I can get a little nervous in new situations, so an experienced adopter would be best. Call Verde Valley Humane Society (928) 634-7387



I'm **FLYNN!** I'm a friendly 51lb guy who loves to sniff everything on my walks. I'm affectionate and fun but just so-so about sharing my space with other dogs. Call Verde Valley Humane Society (928) 634-7387



I'm **PUMPKIN!** A shy gal who will make a great hiking or walking companion. Pumpkin can be shy, and may prefer being your one and only four-legged companion. Call Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



Hi, there! I'm **GAIL!** And I'm **TRISTAN** her bestie! We're focused on finding our furever home together because we're inseparable! We both love other cats and kids, birdwatching, and basking in the sun! Call High Country Humane (928) 526-0742 and ask to connect with our foster.



Hi, there! I'm **MISSY,** and this is my best friend, **JASPER!** I'm a sweet but shy kitty, and Jasper's my complete opposite: outgoing, playful, and full of energy. We're looking for our purr-fect forever home together. Call High Country Humane (928) 526-0742 and ask to connect with our foster.



SAMSON: A 14-week-old Seal Point Siamese mix with white mittens. Yavapai Humane Trappers Yavapaihumanetrappers.org



SEBASTIAN: A 7-year-old male Tuxedo cat with big gold eyes and magnificent white whiskers. For more information, please contact the Yavapai Humane Society. 928-445-2666

(Rescue Tales continued from page 11)

in Phoenix. The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family recognizes individuals and groups who have dedicated their hearts, hands and minds to help strengthen communities and solve persistent problems within Arizona.

The award for Disaster Response is given to individuals, groups, businesses, or organizations that help to prepare for, protect against, respond to, and recover from disasters and/or emergencies in the community.



Accepting the award, LASER Vice President Abby Harbicht said, "Our dedicated LASER volunteers have made this possible.

"We could not provide this service without the support of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, the Office of Emergency Management, and our grantors and community donors. We are grateful for the recognition."



MIA: A most striking calico lady with lovely green eyes. She is 3 months old and adventurous, affectionate, and playful. She was fostered in a home with 4 dogs, so she is very good with dogs. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



MOCHA: An exceptionally sweet 3-year-old tabby with white female. She loves attention and reciprocates all the love she receives. She loves to give head butts. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924

DOGS & CATS FOR ADOPTION

York, Pennsylvania, Is Paws-itively the Place To Be for Dog Lovers!

By Stacey Wittig



Experience an AKC dog show like this one in March. Photo from Wikimedia, Creative Commons.

York, Pennsylvania, is paws-itively the place to be for dog lovers! This historic town is going to the dogs in the best way possible, welcoming over two thousand pups competing for Best in Show at the AKC Celtic Classic next month. But that's not all—York's charm extends to its dog-friendly railroad rides and even its pro baseball team, which invites member dogs to the dugout! Here's a short list of things to do in this paw-some destination:

Last year, over 2,200 dogs strutted their stuff at the AKC Celtic Classic Dog Shows during the 5-day cluster of conformation competitions at the York Expo Center in York. This family-friendly event is a paw-some outing with free admission and parking—a perfect way to spend the day!

Co-sponsored by the York Kennel Club, Delaware County Kennel Club, and Lancaster Kennel Club, the 2025 Celtic Classic is set for March 12-16, 2025.



Train passenger enjoying Tails on Rails event aboard Northern Central Railway. Courtesy photo.

Climb aboard the Northern Central Railway of York with your furry companions for exclusive Tails on Rails rides. Hop into a historic passenger car pulled by a vintage GP9 diesel locomotive from 1959, chugging along a former Pennsylvania Railroad mainline that's been in operation since 1838.

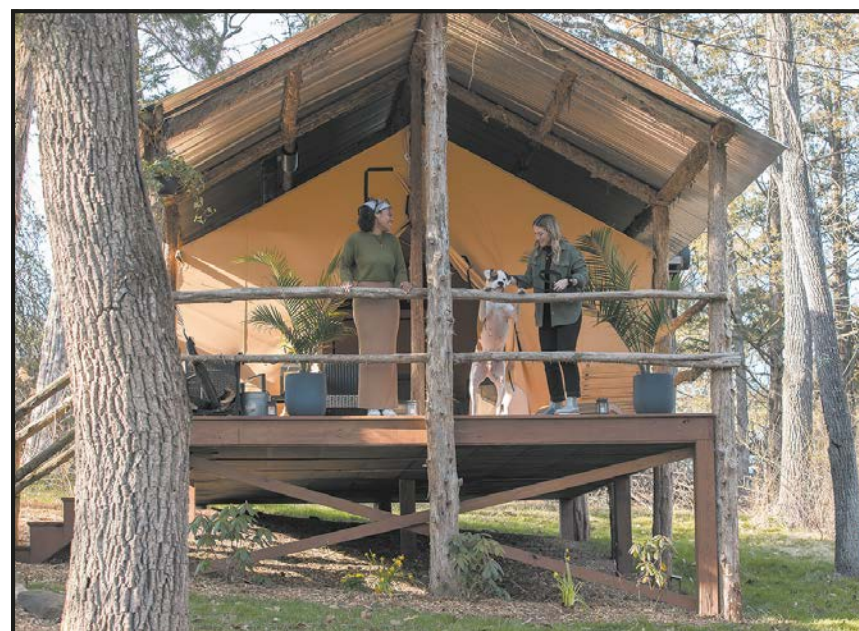
Your journey takes you through the picturesque Heritage Rail Trail County Park, with stunning views and fascinating stories about the towns and villages you pass.

Don't miss out—check their calendar for dates (at tinyurl.com/2m-27h3p6) for dates and get ready for a tail-wagging train ride!

Take your K-9 buddy out to the ballgame! Every Wednesday, the home game is Bark in the Park at WellSpan Park. It's the perfect opportunity to bring your furry friend to enjoy America's pastime.



Woof Pack member photo op at WellSpan Park in York, PA. Courtesy photo.



Big Mount Glamping welcomes your four-legged family member. Courtesy photo.

The York Revolution, a professional baseball team based in York, welcomes dogs to the stadium through special Woof Pack events. Dogs can accompany their owners to the designated dog-friendly areas and soak in the exciting atmosphere.

Woof Pack member dogs are invited to special events throughout the year, like photos behind home plates, in the dugout, or "trot the bases." Be sure to grab your tickets in advance to review the Woof Pack benefits (at tinyurl.com/d9sa3499) and secure your spot.

Grab the leash and head to York County's state parks for fetch-worthy outdoor fun! Codorus State Park and Gifford Pinchot State Park are packed with picnic spots perfect for relaxing and snacking with your furry friend. And the fun doesn't stop there—these parks boast dog-friendly lakes where your pup can make a splash while you kick back and enjoy the view.

There are plenty of dog-friendly places to stay in York, which is sandwiched between Lancaster and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

If you and your sweet pup prefer posh hotels, we recommend the newly renovated Yorktowne Hotel, part of Hilton's Tapestry Collection. It is within walking distance of shopping, restaurants and historic sites. For those who like rustic, try Big Mount Glamping, where you stay in safari-style tents in the Pennsylvania woods.

While there is a plethora of pet-friendly restaurant patios, as you would

expect in any dog-friendly town, you won't want to miss the Holy Hound Taproom right in the historic city center. They'll bring your four-legged traveling companion a bowl of water! Rockfish Public House is definitely the place to take your pooch if you want to enjoy some premium seafood outdoors.

The Chesapeake Bay's proximity (only 60 miles away) ensures the highest quality catches. Or enjoy authentic Portuguese cuisine with your canine companion by your side on the outdoor seating at Mesa Moreira.

With its dog-friendly events, scenic adventures and welcoming spots for pups and their humans alike, York, Pennsylvania, is a pup-tacular destination. Make sure to put York on your list of America250 road trips and experience the charm, history and furry fun this incredible town has to offer!

Enjoy this story? Then get more inspiration at travel writer Stacey Wittig's adventures website, unstoppablestaceytravel.com.



Colossal crab cake and couscous at Rockfish Public House. Photo by Stacey Wittig.

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Happy Tails & Happy Trails: Dogpacking the Highcountry

By Solana Kline

Finally, the cool and still of July sun-setting, especially at 10,000 feet, some rogue nerves rumble around my guts. A healthy dose of excited and scary keeps us humble as humans.

The dinosaur theory, I call it—my observational and completely unscientifically tested hypothesis of contemporary human existence: if dinosaurs still existed, humans would be much more kind, grateful, and would never, ever forget to tell their dogs or humanoids that they love them before they left the house because there would be a 4/10 chance they would get eaten or stepped on by a dinosaur 20 times their size on their commute to work.

Nerves shake us loose from the everyday. They spark the physiological shifts that allow us to be brave and grateful, to experience new adventures, to become beautiful versions of ourselves. They also cause us to dive headfirst into the strange, where no matter how well-prepared you are, dinosaurs stomp your perfect vision of the Fourth of July holiday in the high country....

This particular Fourth of July, me, Betty (aka Snuggess), and Mickey (aka Mingleberries) are backpacking up into the quiet of the San Juan Mountains for four days of burying our toes in the cool grasses and feeling 12,000-foot winds in our hairs. The plan was simple: shove a bunch of warm and tasty goods into packs, strap them on, and hit the trail after the July 3 dinner bell.

Betts carries the lightest gear, like their doggie raincoats. Micks totes the mid-weight goods: dog food, bowls, emergency kit. And I trudge the six-mile, 2,000-foot elevation gain with all the water, tent, and just-in-case gear.

Our first foray into pack backpack adventures was up Humphrey's Peak in Flagstaff, midsummer, where there's no flowing water to purify, so I lugged it all with us. It was exhausting. I think we all came to the consensus that it wasn't enjoyable enough to do again. But now, here we were: everyone with their packs all loaded up, just before sunset, ready to hit the trail.

The dogs, not yet accustomed to their new girth, provided some levity on the ascent, pinballing off each other as they galloped down the trail. I was busy convincing myself how great my calves would look after all this. But really, in this high country, there's a whole helluva lot to be distracted by.

It's Springtime here. There's a particular shade of green that emerges only at sunset in monsoon season high country. A green that's been waiting all year, or perhaps a lifetime, to shine. Maybe it's the way the sun sets, particular fractals of light reverberating in and with the vibrancy of life. It becomes impossible not to dance with the humming energy of the skunk cabbage, taller than me this time of year.

Betty ventures off-piste into the skunk cabbages, I trace her whereabouts by the rattling topknots of the cabbage



Reaching camp



Betts carrying her weight up trail

field. Children of the Corn in the high country I chuckle to myself.

Micks barrels past me, nose to the ground, huffing in the evening wildflower show. Upward and onward we go, over roots and granite, over crick and mossy slicks.

Thick dusk rolls in around us. The deep of the firs has us all a bit bristled with a tender ear out for mountain lion and bear. We all breathe a bit easier as we reach the tree line and step into the sunset once again.

Perfect timing. We will scout a tent site with the perfectly oriented mountaintop view to have coffee with in the morning. We ramble off into the greenery, and the doggoes hound off around the little butte I'm fixing to set up camp on.

I unfasten my pack, get ready for the relief of tossing it on the ground. And then, as per usual when we aren't paying attention as pack leaders, the dogs rustle a fiasco.

Mickey howls and screams from behind the butte. I can't see him. Worst nightmare when you're wrestling sixty extra pounds and just can't get to them fast enough.

I sprint as best I can, lofting over the strewn boulders and knee-deep foliage. Logic says it's a mama bear and her cubs. I pull my bear spray as I'm run-

ning, screaming as loud as I can to scare them off.

Cresting the butte, I finally see Mickey hightailing it outta dodge, blood dripping down his face and arms. Betty is charging full-frontal towards the hillside, fierce warrior.

Their foe finally comes into focus, trapped between Betty's front legs: a huge adult marmot, seething, frothing, and pissed as all get out.

I chase in between him and Betty, snapping Betts out of her squirrel-high. The marmot trundles back into the safety of his rock lodge, where he maintains safety-scout look-

out position at the opening, chirping his warning.

I shoo the dogs down to the trail to assess the damage. It's almost full dark now, and it's tough to tell who and what is bleeding. I bust out the saline, which squirts clean through Mickey's lip and out the bottom of his chin. Crap, a gnarly marmot bite.

Mickey is always into the skunks and porcupines. Doggie curiosity is the mother of misfortune out in the prickly and defensive spring wilderness.

Jeesh, now what? Do we descend tonight in the dark? I'll call an emergency vet.

I feel around for my phone in my pack's zipper pocket. Nothing. Increasingly urgent, I check all my pockets. Nothing. My phone fell out when I ran across the hillside, or after I'd grabbed the dogs and ran a few hundred meters down the trail. It's too dark to find it now.

Exhausted, I didn't even have the energy to let the explicatives fly. I was worried for Mickey, and for the poor marmot friend. Executive decision: we descend now, get down to the rig.

The pups are coming down from their adrenaline high, all tucked out. I carry their packs the last half of the descent. I sing Johnny Cash and Bonnie Raitt, jogging wide awake, running high on thoughts of a wild-cat fresh on our heels.

We've never been so grateful to see our rig, except maybe after the two-month doggie-moto trip! I think maybe we've sworn off dogpacking for good this time... well... at least until next time....



Betty and Mickey in the Skunk Cabbage



The pack stopping to smell the flowers

Happy trails and happy tails!
~Solana, Dr. Sausage, Dr. Wiggles

P.S. After a solid round of antibiotics and professional cleaning, Micks healed up great. I biked up to find my phone the next morning. After two hours of searching, I discovered that a trail angel must've set my phone, along with someone's windbreaker, on a rock. I hooted and hollered to the heavens in gratitude! Mr. Marmot friend was out guarding his rock hut again that morning: I sent him telepathic apologies and hopefully he remains unscathed!

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Pet Ownership Then vs. Pet Guardianship Now – Part II

By Stacy Dexter

In my last article, I delved into the many ways our pets lives have improved: from ownership to guardianship, from floor to comfy beds. Now, there are microchips to help find lost or stolen pets, dog sitters/walkers, daycare, better shelters, rescues, and animal adoption information. It isn't perfect, but it's so much better.

Pets come along to most activities. They're not locked in a room when company calls. We make cakes for their birthdays and treat them to "pup cups" from our favorite drive-thru coffee shop. We plan trips that include our pets whether we're camping, hiking, or visiting friends.

There are even cruises just for dogs and their guardians! Leaving them home can feel like a betrayal...and we truly miss them.

Back in the day, dogs rarely went with us in the car, much less on a vacation. If you had a pickup truck, they were loaded into the back, bouncing around wildly while Uncle Bubba laughed hysterically, careening around each corner, putting them at risk.

As children, we were told that the dogs loved it. Just a few years ago while driving through Texas, I was alarmed to see a dog in a crate in the back of a Ford F150. It was 100 degrees and there wasn't any shade. I wanted to follow the truck home and kidnap the dog.

I feel this way about dogs kept behind fences or locked in garages. They are prisoners, sentenced to a boring life without walks or camaraderie with their humans inside a home.

Why do some people have pets? Animals have feelings. They get lonely, scared, bored, and feel the separation from their "pack," whether it's animal or human. It is unkind to treat dogs this way and as some of us say, "there outta be a law."



In my childhood neighborhood, there was one dog who we kids treasured; Snoopy was a friendly yellow lab mix, with big soft ears that looked like oval slices of ham framing his adorable face and pink nose.

He lived in a grassless, filthy backyard full of trash and junk and slept outside in a disheveled doghouse. My siblings and I (to my mother's chagrin), would sneak Snoop into our house and get him up on the sofa tucking him in with a pillow and blanket.

Any chance we got, we had him in our house, on the sofa, sharing our beef baloney and slices of cheese.

Regrettably, he was put down because of his "incessant wandering and lack of obedience." (Now, whose fault was that??) The night before his execution, we cried and howled at the moon from our bedroom windows and made up a mournful song in his honor.

We kids begged our parents to let us adopt him, but they wouldn't be swayed—probably because Snoopy was seen as a problem.

This wouldn't happen today, as "inconvenience euthanasia" is uncommon. Snoopy would've (hopefully) been surrendered to a shelter and maybe had a second chance. Poor ol' Snoop.

Back in the day, dogs were often outside day and night, since there wasn't a leash law. My Grammie Dexter always had three or four dogs, all different types. Bourbon was a cagey, black Lab mix; Governor, a messy, drooling basset hound; Missy, the elderly beagle mix with a huge benign tumor on her side; and Canus, a doltish yellow Lab.

They were all required to come inside at night, but Bourbon wasn't the obedient type and would ignore my grandmother and her "demands." Her throat hoarse from calling his name, Grammie sometimes resorted to an old trick that was sure to work: if she saw Bourbon in the woods out back, she would light a firecracker and whip it out the kitchen window.

Terrified by the sound, he would come running to the front door. Imagine doing this today? It would be all over Next Door!

Across the street from my grandmother's house, there lived a gigantic St. Bernard named Chief who loved to venture onto the property to antagonize Bourbon.

In preparation, they would circle each other and then Bourbon would go at Chief like it was a fight to the death with his mortal enemy. Bourbon, at 35 pounds, would be a complete maniac trying to maul the 140 pound Chief.

My siblings and cousins and I would be screaming bloody murder for Grammie to come out and stop them. She would march out of the house, grab the garden hose, and blast the cold water at them to break it up.

She always remained so calm (she raised 10 children, after all)... it was thrilling! And just think; nobody sued or called the police or sent over a Karen to lecture anyone about it.

Times for our pets have definitely changed for the better. It is up to us to make sure that our fellow humans who adopt animals have evolved and will see their beloved new family members for who they are; friends to cherish, love, protect, and nurture. They are precious gifts who are counting on us. Let's not let them down.



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