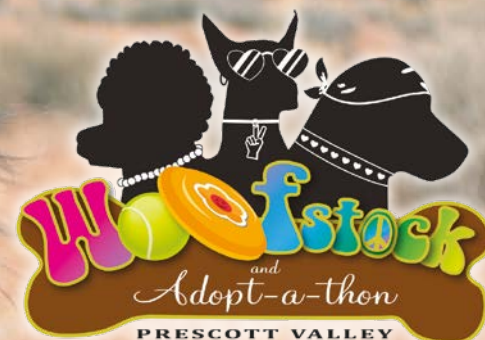


Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

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April/May 2025
FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



Make It a WOOFstock Weekend

A Little Side of Salsa
What is Compounding?
Celebration of Life: Wally
A Mile in Their Own Paws

Introducing Our Cover Dog ~ Opal

 **Yavapai Humane Society**



Fred
7 1/2 year old
Male Mixed Breed
At YHS since September 2024



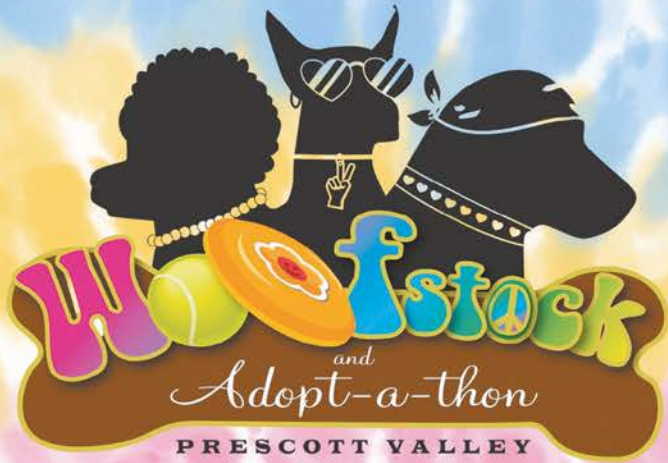
Goofy
3 year old
Male Labrador Retriever Mix
At YHS since December, 2024



Hans
2 year old
Male Alaskan Husky Mix
At YHS since December, 2024



1625 Sundog Ranch Road, Prescott 928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org



Saturday, May 31st

**Prescott Valley Civic Center Amphitheatre
7501 E. Skoog Blvd, Prescott Valley
9AM-2PM**



ADOPTIONS

**Dozens of deserving Dogs & Puppies
will be available for adoption**



CONTESTS

- 10AM Best Psychedelic Costume**
- 11AM Best Wiggle Butt**
- 12PM Best Trick or Talent**
- 1PM Best Looking Dog**

Trophies and Prizes Awarded

GOING ON ALL DAY

**ADOPTIONS, VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS, PHOTO BOOTH,
K9 DEMOS, BOOK SIGNINGS, LIVE RADIO BROADCASTS AND MORE**

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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) Choose a backdrop for your picture. Set your camera on large or high and capture a quality shot 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 receive:

- 1) A \$50. Gift Card
- 2) 50 copies of Prescott 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
12/1, 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 8/1 and 10/1



Opal, Our Cover Dog

Name: Opal

Hometown:
Richmond, Virginia.

Age: 8 years young.

Favorite brand of kibble: An artisanal mix of Royal Canin and Hill's Science Diet, prepared by my own personal chefs (Mom and Dad). It's only the best for the best pup!

Favorite people food: You name it, I'll eat it. However, I'm particularly fond of cucumbers, carrots, blueberries, skinned apples—and, of course, whipped cream.

Favorite toy: My PetLou brand sheep, times three. I love this sheep so much that whenever my parents see some, they buy out the stock and save them as year-round gifts for me because while I love them like babies, I also like to perform squeak-ectomys on each of them. I'm up to 37 and counting....

Favorite outdoor activity: Hiking as far as my little legs will take me. Put me near the Granite Dells, and I become a mountain goat hopping away.

Favorite indoor activity: I am a nap queen.

Favorite nap spot: While I could take a good nap anywhere (even sitting upright), I sure do love a nice, warm sunny spot.

Fitness regimen: I enjoy daily walks after Mom gets off work, but weekends



are my favorite. Weekends are ADVENTURE TIME! I love hiking, swimming, and rock climbing in new places with the parents.

Describe your perfect canine pal: My perfect canine pal would be my late boyfriend, Everett, who lived with my mom's best friend in

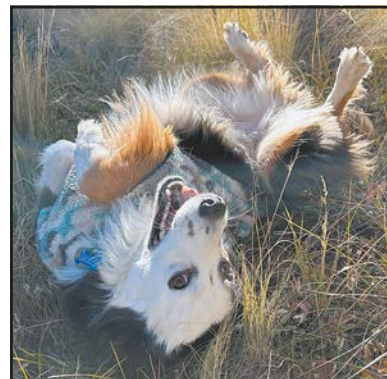
Philly. Everett recently went to play and get belly rubs from angels high above the clouds. Everett will always be the most handsome boy I ever did see, and I will forever love him.

I look forward to the day I get to play and share pup-cups with him again. Until then, I am but a lonely widow. This heart of mine goes out to my one and only, Everett.

Describe your perfect day: Any day I get to be living and exploring this beautiful world with my parents is the perfect day—although I do have some preferences, if you're asking.

My perfect day would include sunshine to bask in, snow I can hop around in, nice water to swim in, my parents to pass the time with, a bottomless pup-cup to share with my late boyfriend, and all the toys I have ever owned returning to their original state so I can enjoy tearing them up all over again.

If you'd like see more of my shenanigans, please feel free to follow me on Instagram @opalodple.



Tucker's Take

Pru Gets a Reset

"Tucker? Tucker!"

I heard Pru loud and clear, and after the number of moons that have come and gone since her membership in our pack family, I've learned to let her come to me rather than run to her for what turns out to be a waste of time and energy.

Don't get me wrong, a canine with my responsibilities to keep the peace means I do have to respond to problems within the pack or on the property. But when you're awakened from a deep slumber to the high-pitched expression of pure panic, only to run with all your might and speed (with senses turbo-engaged), and find the supposed victim happily chasing a butterfly's shadow across the yard?

I was in the master bathroom, sort of halfway gauging Pru's progress going room to room calling my name, while I reviewed the scents of the clothes basket recently placed on the floor.

The tip-tap clicking of Pru's paws finally came down the hallway and onto the bedroom carpet. Then... silence.

Whenever Pru enters a room to address someone, she quick-waggles her head, and it make a distinctive sound as her upright ears whack together. Five times. Always five times. Still, silence. But I could hear her gently sniff the air for my scent.

When she broke her silence, I heard a very unexpected sound of shaking fear.

"Tuuuucker?"

I bolted from the bathroom and shot past Pru, heading for the back door to the yard, which is where she came from when she first called my name.

Sliding door open...good. Scan first.

My head swept side to side as Pru slid to a stop behind me. She didn't shoulder me out of the way to be first outside. Another clue. Something was really wrong.

I caught a clear scent. Blood... and something else.

I spun around to look over Pru and saw her hindquarters were shaking, vibrating, and not from the cold.



To a two-legged's eyes, what I did next my have looked... uh, rude. Or mean.

I nosed her hard at the sides, to turn her this way and that to check for wounds or blood. Any other time, she would have turned my actions into a clear invitation for rough play. (The kind that Mom eschews).

This time, she offered no resistance to my rough prodding—another clue to how upset our youngest pack-sister was.

I blocked the way outside by sitting down in front of the open door and asked, "Are you hurt?"

Whap, whap, whap, whap, whap (A good sign.)

"No... Wait, uh... I whacked my head on the edge of the door. Turned too tight."

I called her over and sniffed each side of her face, gently cleaning her upright ears, and coaxed her to tell me what happened.

To paraphrase a very emotional retelling: Mr. Skybird (hawk) had been high up in the pine tree and dropped his prey, which came down through the branches to land in front of Pru.

She didn't know (as she put one paw forward to investigate) that

Mrs. Skybird was above her on the fence and took exception to Pru's advancement.

Next thing Pru knew was the swoop of large wings over her back and a fierce screeee with hot breath in her face.

Promising to the heavens to never, ever, ever touch or investigate anything that fell out of a tree ever, ever again, Pru had hightailed it to the back door, only to catch a glimpse of Mr. Skybird on the fence overlooking the back door. Hence the tight turn.

Pru only pulled away from me once when I licked the spot that had connected to the door's edge. While cleaning the left side of her face, I noticed that one spot was a bit warmer.

The vibrating stopped when she related the part where she had spun around to see if Mr. Skybird was coming into the house pursuing her. Pru's eyes had met the hawk's on the fence. That was the first time she had called out to me.

"You know what I think, Tuck? Wait, don't answer that. I think that your response time as of late as a sheriff, ain't what it used to be."

I continued to wash her face and tried not to snort/laugh as the pepper in my sister Prudence reappeared.

"You know what else, Tuck? I don't want, like, any formal report kind of thing. Because I'm kind of embarrassed. Will this go on my permanent record?"

I assured her that I wouldn't tell Deputy Keira, so no report would be filed. I also re-affirmed that Pru was the fastest, most athletic, highest jumping canine in the whole pack.

"You didn't say that I'm brave, Tuck. Or courageous," she protested.

I pointed out that she had turned and stood her ground and looked

Mr. Skybird in the eye.

"In fact," I emphasized with the widest of eyes, "you took the right course of action."

Pru's eyes went wide. "Action? I like that word Tuck. I'm an Action Pack-Sister!"

Action-Packed is more accurate, I thought but didn't say.

I asked her to come on outside and keep me company while I found the perfect spot to do my business. I delayed the process to give Pru time to regain her yard-confidence.

While the twilight repainted the world's colors, a distant scree came to our ears.

Pru raised her muzzle to nonchalantly sniff the cooling air.

Good, I thought. She didn't react with fear. That's my Pru.

Mom and Keira returned from an outing, and Pru couldn't help herself from parading around Keira proclaiming how brave she was, and that Keira probably didn't do a single brave thing all day.

Keira looked over at me with a look of exasperation before she bolted and chased Pru outside. Cue rough housing...

Roused from her musings in the other room, Hazel came out and, with Rez dog awareness, she scented right to the place where the prey had landed, but now was long gone.

"Anything I should know about, Tuck?"

Before I could answer, Pru came up alongside to suggest that I should tell about her adventure in my next column. As long as I included the bravery and action part.

"I thought you didn't want Keira to know?" I said, a bit surprised at her suggestion.

"Aw, Tucker, don't you know? Keira just pretends to read your column. She thinks you're kind of boring."

~Tucker Oso



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Rescue Resources

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



| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
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| ARIZONA BORDER COLLIE RESCUE Tempe, 480-422-5366 azbcr.org | DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE Glendale, 480-899-5227 dlrraz.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 misskittyscathouse.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

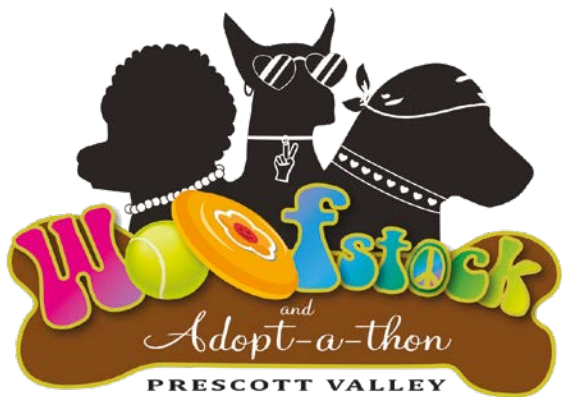
FLAGSTAFF DOG PARKS
 Thorpe Park – 788 N Thorpe Road, Flagstaff
 Bushmaster Park – 3150 N Alta Vista Dr, Flagstaff

SEDONA DOG PARK
 April 1 thru Oct 1: 6am-8pm • Oct. 1 thru April 1: 7am- 7pm
 Turn north on Soldier's Pass Road off State Route 89A, Sedona.

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

Make It a WOOFstock Weekend

By Heidi Dahms Foster



The most fun on four paws (and two feet!) in Prescott Valley will happen this spring at the 14th annual Woofstock and Adopt-a-Thon.

Woofstock will take place on Saturday, May 31st, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the beautiful lawns of the Prescott Valley Civic Center at 7501 E. Skoog Blvd. The event is hosted by Prescott Dog Magazine and Flagstaff-Sedona Dog Magazine.

Woofstock Events

Your day at Woofstock will be filled with great contests, food trucks, photo booth, raffles, vendors, K9 demos and much more! Check out all of the cute pups up for adoption through local rescues and see if one of them might fill a spot in your heart and home.

Don't Miss the Contests

Who doesn't love to show off their talented, beautiful dog? Woofstock contests offer just the right venue to show off your spectacular pet! Dig out your duds from your hippy days, and fashion some for your dog, to enter the Best Psychedelic Dog Costume contest!

If your dog has a great wiggle when it walks, be sure to sign up for the Best Wiggle Butt competition. Show off your dog's amazing talents in the Best Trick or Talent contest.



Everyone knows their dog is the prettiest or most handsome in the world, so the Best Looking Dog contest is for everyone!

Adoptions

Hundreds of dogs have found their forever homes through the 14 years of Woofstock. If you are looking for a new family member, Woofstock is the place.

A number of local rescues will have all sizes, ages and personalities of great dogs to choose from, and you'll leave feeling wonderful for giving a deserving pup a great home.

Check out attending rescues and see how you might be able to donate or volunteer.



Vendors

Woofstock features many vendors from veterinarian clinics to dog food and animal art. Many booths have great raffles with prizes you won't want to miss.

Expand Your Woofstock Weekend



Woofstock is a great time to expand your trip to take in some more dog friendly fun in Prescott Valley and nearby Prescott. From hotels to pet friendly patios at restaurants, dog parks to spectacular trails, you'll find lots of great experiences to share with your canine companion.

Places to Stay

Dog friendly Prescott Valley hotels include GreenTree Inn, Hampton Inn & Suites, and La Quinta Inn & Suites. GreenTree and Hampton Inn hotels are located just blocks from the Woofstock location at the Civic Center.

La Quinta Inn & Suites is located 5 miles away on Highway 69. A search for local AirBnB's will reveal a number of pet friendly options as well.

If you want to bring your home away from home, consider the Fairgrounds RV Park, located at the Yavapai County Fairgrounds on Highway 89A in east Prescott Valley. Features include an on-site management office, full hook up sites, internet, telephone and propane refill station.

The Prescott Valley and Prescott areas feature some trails with spectacular views, and with the area's beautiful climate, a day on the trails can be a wonderful experience with your pet.

Pet Friendly Places to Dine

- **Jen's Seventh Ave Café** is a popular spot for breakfast and lunch, with a patio where dogs are welcome. 6800 E State Rte 69, Prescott Valley
- **Superb Food Company:** Casual meals with a patio where you can enjoy your food with your pet. 4700 N Stillwell Pkwy, Prescott Valley
- **Back Burner Family Restaurant:** Family-friendly atmosphere with a patio where dogs are welcome. 8400 E Long Mesa Dr, Prescott Valley
- **COLT Grill, BBQ & Spirits:** Great barbecue with a pet friendly patio. 2970 Park Ave, Prescott Valley

Trails

The Glassford Summit Trail makes its way more than 900 feet up the side of Glassford Hill, an extinct volcano. At the top, you'll have a breathtaking 360-degree view of Prescott Valley, the Mingus Mountain and Bradshaw ranges, and the San Francisco Peaks to the north. This is considered a bit more challenging hike because of the steep climb to the top. Be sure to bring extra water for you and your pup.

Fain Park south of Highway 69 features the Cavalry Trail, a nice hike in the Lynx Creek canyon area with a view of Fain Lake.

This is a historic mining area with a 100-year-old dam, a canyon overlook and mining equipment exhibits. It's also an important Birding Area, so you may spot a number of songbirds, ducks and a bald eagle or two.



(WOOFstock continued page 13)

MAKE IT A WOOFSTOCK WEEKEND



GNOCCHI: A sweet puppy about 6 months old. She may weigh around 50 pounds when fully grown. She loves to play and will make a fantastic companion. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



SAMANTHA: A beautiful 4yo female sable German Shepherd. Clever, friendly, independent w/ a quirky personality to make you smile. Incredibly sweet & affectionate, loyal & protective. A constant companion. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



BOSWELL: A young male about 1 year old and weighs 43 pounds. He's wiggly and fun and friendly and a staff favorite. He is friendly to other dogs. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



MILLIE: An affectionate female English Staffordshire mix, 4 years old. She adores people and loves being outside where she can run and play. Very affectionate. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



LYNN: A sweet girl about 1 year old and weighs 35 pounds. Once she feels safe, her affectionate and playful personality shines. Great on a leash and with other dogs. No cats. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



ARLO: An energetic black and white male Australian Cattle dog mix, 5 years old. He loves people but can be jealous sometimes. He would like to be an only child. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



BAGEL: A big happy male dog about 1 year old. He is almost fully grown and weighs 72 pounds. He has a lot of energy and will make a great adventure companion. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



BRUISER: A 3-month-old, 15 lb. male. Sweet & loves to play, nap & snuggle while you watch TV. He kennels through the night. Good with other dogs and cats. High Country Humane 928-526-0742 or foster mom at 928-607-7544



SALSA: A 3yo female who weighs 40 lbs. A happy dog who loves stuffed animals and tennis balls. Very affectionate, loves to snuggle. House trained & good with other dogs. Loves long walks. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



LEVI: A 5-month-old red and white charmer with floppy ears. A social butterfly who loves people, kids, dogs, and cats. Foster mom says he is an absolute joy. High Country Humane 928-526-0742 or foster mom at 612-968-9899



SNICKERDOODLE: A small white female golden retriever and labrador mix, two months old. She is full of love, playful, and never stops wagging. Loves cuddling in laps and is great with kids. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



KIRBY: A 5yo female cuddlebug, 10 lbs. Loves walks, playing fetch. Will make an easygoing companion. A loyal & affectionate girl, but not comfortable with small children. Loves curling up in laps. High Country Humane 928-526-0742/foster 520-975-7424



AURORA: A female golden retriever mix, 6 years old. She is sweet, calm, and gentle. She loves people of all ages. Loves leisurely walks, cuddles, and treats. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



CHANEL: A beautiful red female with white trim, 5 months old. She is into playing hard, napping hard, and cuddling. She is sweet, adventurous, and charming. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



NALAH: A gorgeous female, 2 years old. She is a gentle female, playful and snuggly. Good with other dogs. Loves squeaky toys and sincerely loves affection. Pets are her love language. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



CYRUS: 6mo male Australian Cattle Dog mix. Active & athletic, great agility prospect. Friendly, curious, calm & attentive. Loyal and devoted. Good with dogs and cats. Blackhat Humane Society Toby at 4lvdch@gmail.com



CHUCK: A handsome, fluffy 1yo big guy. He is a gentle, charming dog who enjoys things like lounging on the couch for a Netflix binge. He is playful, but nothing too intense. A perfect companion. High Country Humane 928-526-0724



NOAH: Playful 6mo German Shepherd mix. 21 lbs but will be ~60lbs when grown. Smart, affectionate, playful & brave. Loves walks & rides in the truck. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-710-4632



MOMONA: A sweet and beautiful female white husky mix. She is calm and loving with a gentle spirit. She would make a loving and loyal companion. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



CHUCKY: A handsome 2yo American Bulldog. Affectionate & funny, seeks attention. Smart, great on a leash, knows basic commands. Will be a great companion and friend. Yavapai Humane Trappers at 928-710-4632



SNICKERDOODLE: A charming 6mo female terrier mix, about 35lbs. Sweet but a bit shy at first. Once she knows she's safe, she's eager to please & loving. Blackhat Humane Society at blackhathumane@gmail.com



JASPER: 4mo male Australian Shepherd mix. Playful but mellow & very well mannered. Housebroken, crate-trained, very well mannered. He's also a great smiler. Good with other dogs. Yavapai Humane Trappers at 928-710-4632



TEVA: A 6mo female German Shepherd mix. Playful, affectionate, loving. Good w/other dogs, kennel trained. She loves snuggling and going on adventures. Blackhat Humane Society ddenetsosie@gmail.com



RANGER: 4mo black Labrador/ Shepherd mix, all cuddles & charm. Loves playing in water & snuggles. Good with house training, crate training, and leash work. He's going to be great. Yavapai Humane Trappers at 928-710-4632



ZORRO: 1yo male shepherd mix. Playful, loving and loyal, 40 lbs. Seeks loving attention & obeys simple commands. Good with children and other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society blackhathumane@gmail.com



KODIAK: A sweet male Cattle Dog puppy. He is enjoying lots of affection and attention from his caregivers. He will grow up to be an energetic dog, eager to learn and please. Yavapai Humane Trappers at 928-710-4632



JAZZY BOY: A sweet 6mo male w/some Australian Shepherd and Rottweiler. Loves to belong & wants to be next to his person. Has good recall skills. Blackhat Humane Society or LindaRobinsonStudio@lcloud.com



OSCAR: A mega-lapdog! 12yo Chihuahua & 13 lbs. of affection. Loves hanging out & snuggling in laps. He's good with other dogs. Fully potty trained and well mannered. High Country Humane 928-526-0742/foster 602-312-1426



ELLIE: A special tabby lady, five years old. She loves people, always wants to be part of whatever you are doing.
High Country Humane/ foster
928-326-0918



MOTOR: A charming brown tabby male kitten. He is ready to race into your heart. He purrs like his name, a motor! This spunky kitty is ready for his forever home.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



GOBLIN: A 1-year-old white with gray male. He is a sweet and laid back, super snuggler who is super social. Good with other cats.
High Country Humane
928-526-0742



SPROUT: A young female brown tabby. Sprout has gorgeous markings and is very friendly. She'll bring a smile to your face and purr herself right into your heart.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



MISS JANE: A sweet and dreamy longhaired blue female with green eyes. She loves sunbathing and bird watching from window. She is very sweet and affectionate.
High Country Humane/foster
623-695-7023



LADYBIRD: A lovely long-haired female brown tabby with white trim. She is a beauty who enjoys looking out the window, attention, and all cat-related activities.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



CFOR: A most handsome red gentleman, 5 years old. He's very sweet and gentle, but a bit shy until he knows and trusts you. With patience you will have a best friend for life. Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



BRUSSELS: A beautiful soft gray male, approximately 1 year old. He is gentle and very affectionate.
Yavapai Humane Trappers at
traceyeggars29@gmail.com



STARRY: A charming tuxedo male with cute markings. He is sweet and will happily curl up in your lap. He is a playful and gentle soul who loves people. Humane Society of Sedona
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HANZA: A handsome young male brown tabby with white trim and big golden eyes. He is super sweet, affectionate, and loves to sit in your lap. Good with other dogs and cats. Yavapai Humane Trappers at
traceyeggars29@gmail.com



SUMMER: A sweet and gentle brown tabby female with green eyes. She is very affectionate and loves head scratches and curling up with you for a nap.
Humane Society of Sedona
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COAL: A terrific 6-month-old male. He is fun and energetic.
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Unlocking the Joys of Pet Adoption: Embracing the 3-3-3 Rule

In today's fast-paced world that's filled with endless responsibilities and to-do lists, the idea of adopting a pet can be both thrilling and a little overwhelming. After all, bringing a new furry friend into your home isn't just about cute cuddles and playful moments: it's also a lifelong commitment that requires time, patience, and plenty of love. But don't worry! The 3-3-3 Rule is here to guide you through the early stages of pet adoption, making the transition smoother for both you and your new companion.

Think of the 3-3-3 Rule as a roadmap to help navigate the first critical days, weeks, and months after adoption. It breaks down the adjustment period into three key milestones: the first three days, the first three weeks, and the first three months.

Each stage reflects a unique phase of your pet's emotional and physical adjustment, helping you build trust, understanding, and a lasting bond. The most important thing to remember throughout this process? Patience—and lots of it!

The First 3 Days: A World of New Beginnings

The first few days after bringing your pet home can feel like a whirlwind of emotions. For your new furry family member, everything is unfamiliar: new sights, sounds, smells, and faces. It's an exciting but overwhelming time for them, and they might respond in a variety of ways. Some pets are curious and eager to explore, while others may be shy, withdrawn, or even a little nervous. Both reactions are perfectly normal.

During these initial days, your primary goal is to create a calm, safe, and predictable environment. Set up a cozy space where your pet can retreat and decompress when things feel overwhelming. Keep things lowkey and let them explore their new surroundings at their own pace. While it might be tempting to shower them with attention, give them space to adjust, and take it slow.

Be prepared for some hiccups during this time. Your pet may have accidents in the house, engage in destructive behavior, or prefer to be left alone. This is completely normal. Remember, life in a shelter or previous home is vastly different from life with you. Give your pet the grace to adapt and understand that they're doing their best to make sense of their new world.

Bonding may not happen right away, and that's okay. Your pet is trying to figure out who you are, what their new environment is like, and where they fit in. Spend time sitting quietly with them, speaking in soothing tones and offering treats to help them feel safe and secure. Simple routines—like feeding times and gentle walks—can offer a reassuring sense of stability during this adjustment period.

The First 3 Weeks: Building Trust and Routine

As you move into the next phase, the focus shifts to creating structure and building trust. By now, your pet is starting to recognize familiar faces and routines. This is when you may begin to see their personality shine through—whether it's playful and outgoing or calm and reserved.

Consistency is key during these weeks. Establishing predictable routines for meals, playtime, walks, and bedtime helps your pet feel more secure and confident. When they know what to expect, their anxiety begins to decrease, and they can settle into the rhythm of their new life.

Training can also begin during this period but keep it light and positive. Focus on basic commands like sit, stay, or come, and use positive reinforcement techniques like treats and praise. Celebrate their progress, no matter how small, and remember that patience is still your best friend. Each pet learns at their own pace, so tailor your approach to their unique personality and needs.

Beyond training, this is a wonderful time to strengthen your bond through interactive play and quality time together. Whether it's a game of fetch, a leisurely stroll, or cozying up on the couch, these moments of connection go a long way in building a lasting relationship. Pay attention to their cues: if they seem tired or overwhelmed, give them a break and let them rest.

The First 3 Months: Settling In and Thriving

By the time you reach the three-month mark, your pet is truly beginning to feel at home. This stage is about deepening your connection and continuing to provide a stable, loving environment. Your pet should be more comfortable with the household routine and may even seek out affection and companionship on their own terms.

This is a great time to explore new activities together. Consider introducing your pet to fun adventures

like hiking, puzzle toys for mental stimulation, or even a doggy play-date (if they're ready). These enriching experiences help keep them engaged and strengthen your bond.

Continue monitoring your pet for signs of stress or discomfort and adjust your approach as needed. Open communication with your veterinarian can be invaluable, especially if you have questions about behavior or health.

Most importantly, cherish the journey. By now, you've likely experienced the joys and challenges of pet parenthood, and your pet has become a beloved member of the family. The love and trust you've built during these first few months lay the foundation for a lifetime of companionship.

Beyond the 3-3-3 Rule: A Lifelong Adventure

While the 3-3-3 Rule is a helpful guide for the early days, the journey of pet adoption is an ongoing adventure filled with love, laughter, and learning. Every pet is unique, and your relationship continues to grow and evolve over time.

Approach each day with patience, kindness, and a sense of humor. There will be moments of triumph and times when things don't go quite as planned, but through it all, the bond you share with your pet will only deepen. Embrace the little victories, savor the special moments, and know that you've given your pet the greatest gift of all: a safe, loving forever home.

By embracing the 3-3-3 Rule and beyond, you embark on a heartwarming journey that transforms not only your pet's life, but also your own. Through patience, consistency, and a whole lot of love, you're creating a story of friendship and devotion that will last a lifetime.



Celebrating Squeaky

The sad stuff works. You know what we mean?

In rescue, sometimes the saddest stories elicit the largest donations or the fastest adoptions. The dogs with three legs, the dogs missing an eye... the sad ones! And don't get

(Rescue Tales continued page 14)

The 3-3-3 Rule

In the first 3 days:
 They're feeling overwhelmed
 May be scared and unsure of what is going on
 May not want to eat or drink
 May shut down and stay in a crate or hide
 May not feel comfortable enough to be themselves

After 3 weeks:
 They're starting to settle in
 Feeling more comfortable
 Realizing this could possibly be their forever home
 Figured out the environment
 Getting into a routine
 Starting to show true personality

After 3 months:
 Feeling completely comfortable
 Know they're home
 Building trust and a true bond
 Gained a complete sense of security with new family
 Set in a routine

928-445-2666 yavapaihumane.org

(WOOFstock continued from page 8)



Iron King/Peavine Trail

The Iron King Trail begins west of the Santa Fe Loop in Prescott Valley, and connects to the Peavine Trail, a mostly flat, 7-mile trail that takes a little over two hours to complete. This is a great trail for a hike with your favorite dog. Dogs must be on a leash. The Iron King Trail to Peavine Trail follows an abandoned railroad line through some truly beautiful scenery, including the Prescott Dells area and Watson Lake.

Prescott Valley Multi-Use Path System

Prescott Valley has invested in a multi-use path system in areas throughout the Town. The surfaced paths run from .5 to more than 4 miles, and are great for a short walk with your pet. Many feature benches to rest along the way. Visit prescottvalley-az.gov and search trails for a detailed map.

Parks

Prescott Valley has 26 parks, and most have easy walking paths with a view, suitable for a great stroll with your dog. Remember that outside the Dog Park



at Mountain Valley Park, dogs must be on leash. Mountain Valley Park and Bob Edwards Park are closest to downtown and the Woofstock venue.

The remaining parks are located throughout the Town and feature great opportunities to relax, enjoy beautiful scenery, or walk your dog.

Prescott Valley Civic Center

The Prescott Valley Civic Center, home of Woofstock, features several acres of great lawns, and is surrounded by a multi-use walking path. The town center is filled with shade trees, so your Woofstock visit will be comfortable for you and your pet.

Don't forget to check out the Civic Center's extensive display of public art while you walk your pet and enjoy Woofstock.



Mountain Valley Park

Mountain Valley Park is a 69-acre park and sports complex in the center of Prescott Valley.

The park features an extensive surfaced walking path, and is adjacent to the Urban Forest/Yavapai Lakes, where you can enjoy cool trees, wildlife and the extension of the walking paths that circle the park.

This park also includes the Prescott Valley Dog Park if you'd like to let your dog off leash in the contained area.

Bob Edwards Park is just north of the Civic Center and also features a large grass area and ramada with a surfaced walking trail.

Resources

- Prescott Valley Town Government, Trail Maps and Parks Information: prescottvalley-az.gov
- Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce – Things to Do, Places to Shop and Visit: pvchamber.org
- ExplorePVAZ website – More To Do and See: tinyurl.com/4vnb7e4e



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(Rescue Tales continued from page 12)



us wrong, we love ALL the dogs that come to us here at the Humane Society of Sedona. But today we want to draw your attention to a dog who is the antithesis of sadness—the happiest, brightest-eyed, biggest smile dog we’ve come across in quite some time—Squeaky.

This beautiful pittie was found wandering as a stray last Spring. He was brought to us by animal control, went on the normal stray hold, and no one came for him. Eight months later, still no one has come for him.

Squeaky doesn’t seem to know that he’s homeless. He’s settled in at HSS and loves every human he meets. (Dogs are a different story.) He seems happy with his routine, and is ever so thankful for his time in the park with his people.

Squeaky is everything an active person could want in a companion: energetic, playful, goofy, and very affectionate. He loves playing fetch and splashing in the baby pool. Stuffed animals don’t stand a chance around this crazy guy, and his goofy energy is a lot of fun to be around.

What Squeaky really loves are his post-zoomie belly rubs. After he gets his wiggles out, he’s all love. And the way he leans against your legs and looks up at you with those bright and shiny brown eyes? Well, that would melt any heart.

Despite the playful energy, the happy smile, the ever-wagging tail, and the affectionate cuddle sessions, Squeaky remains a shelter dog. Since he was found as a stray, we really don’t know if he’s ever experienced the love and stability of a family. But we do know that he would love the chance to try.

Squeaky was briefly adopted last Fall and did well with children in his home, but was returned due to allergies. We know his breed can be a barrier to adoption, and so can the fact that he needs to be the only

pet. But we also know there has to be someone out there willing to give this loving guy a chance.

Squeaky is neutered, microchipped, up to date on his vaccines, AND his adoption fee has been generously sponsored. As with all our adopted animals, HSS would provide post-adoption support for Squeaky’s new family.

If you’re interested in Squeaky, please call us at (928) 282-4679. If you aren’t 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 Squeaky, the better chance he has of finding his forever family. We know he will bring so much joy to the right person, and we desperately want to give him that chance.

Can you help us find Squeaky the heroes he needs to get him out of this shelter and into a home?



When two animal-loving Blackhat volunteers drove past some roadside stands way out by Ganado, they noticed a beautiful white young pup with the group and thought how nice it was that the families took their pet with them. But when the volunteers headed home down the same road at the end of the day, the vendors had long packed up and gone, but the dog was still sitting there alone.

They realized then that the dog was not part of the family and knew they couldn’t just drive by a puppy at dusk who had nowhere to call home. So they piled in the puppy (now called Mingus) along with their other dogs. The volunteers weren’t sure what would happen, but everyone seemed to accept the added company.

At home, a search for anyone missing the maybe-Aussie-Pyrenees mix didn’t turn up anything, and the Blackhat fosters already knew the next step.

Mingus was neutered, rabies, vaccinated and dewormed. A vet guessed him to be about seven months old. A bit unsure of his new surroundings, Mingus still warmed up quickly with calm, gentle treatment.

He needs a patient adopter to show him he won’t be abandoned again,



but this lovely bouncy boy is now available and will make someone a great, fun companion.

When another Blackhat volunteer was out in her neighborhood, she watched in horror as a car ran into two young dogs. One of the dogs sadly did not make it, and the other was distressed and scared.

Luckily the Blackhat volunteer was patient; in time, she coaxed the pup to her. The pup was a small (about 25 lbs.) mixed-breed young adult with striking blue eyes—hence the volunteer named the pup Blue Eyes. Since it’s Spring, and love is in the air for intact dogs and cats, the volunteer quickly made arrangements to have Blue Eyes spayed and vaccinated.

The volunteer felt badly that Blue Eyes had to watch her sibling pass away, but knew she had to save the pup to make up for the trauma. They’re working on socializing now. Luckily, Blue Eyes is warming up in a home with friendly dogs showing her the ropes of being a loved house-dog.

She doesn’t have to worry about where her next meal will come from, or about someone trying to hurt her as a stray. She’ll be available for adoption soon.

While everyone is happy to see Spring peek its way back into our lives, the life of a street dog or cat, fending for itself or trying to keep babies alive, can be harsh and cruel. These recent Blackhat stories show how hard it can be for dogs on their own.

We’re grateful for the many compassionate people who live on the reservation and are willing to extend a hand to help the animals who are trying to survive in a difficult world. Blackhat is dedicated to helping the Navajo Nation’s plight of stray dogs and cats to have a better life through our foster-adopt program, promotion of local spay-neuter clinics, and street dog feeding-care management.

If you’d like to be the light in a homeless pet’s life, we’d love to tell you about our programs that help. If you’d like to adopt a very special dog or cat, please check us out blackhathumanesociety.org.



Fighting for Kansas: How Underdog Clinics Save Lives

Story by Jennifer DeFosse. Photo by Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehab.



During our February clinic in Sheep Springs on the Navajo Nation, our team took in a sick puppy who had been found alone on the side of the road. She was weak, fading fast, and we immediately suspected parvo.

Knowing how deadly the virus can be, we rushed her into quarantine and transported her straight to Moab, Utah for urgent treatment.

This little fighter, now named Kansas, received a monoclonal antibody treatment upon arrival and was placed on IV support and fitted with a feeding tube at our veterinary clinic. She was in critical condition, and for days we all held our breath, hoping she’d pull through.

Thanks to the lifesaving care made possible by our clinics, Kansas is now on the road to recovery in our Parvo Ward at the Rescue Ranch!

Stories like Kansas’s highlight the urgency of our work. On the Navajo Nation, where veterinary care is nearly nonexistent, our free and low-cost mobile clinics provide treatment that save hundreds of lives every month.

We are proud to give pups like Kansas the second chance they deserve—and a future filled with hope.



Silver's Ninth Life

By Kay Lockett

Questions about cats having nine lives and psychic abilities may come up when you meet Silver. This is a cat who must have known something when insisted on going to his forever home, the home he intuitively knew was his.

He boldly introduced himself into a Tucson Senior Retirement Park as a silver streak leaving behind unsavory litter box goodies and a musical meow that annoyed most residents.

Now meet Sonja, the woman in the park whose heart knew that those goodies were left specifically for her and that Silver was marking his spot. All she had to do was catch him.

Dumped and abandoned, Silver ended up in the park during autumn, knowing he needed to get to his forever home before the winter cold arrived. Did he know he was on life number nine?

The odds were against him because the elderly residents were angry with him for being in the park. Yet Silver, ever determined, continued to move into the park while the park said no.

The force that prevailed was Sonja. She insisted he was her cat and was going to adopt him, no matter what. The decision hit roadblocks: Silver with the park and Sonja with her elder cat, Sunshine, who kept hissing at the new arrival.



Sonja's safely screened in porch had a hole, which allowed Sunshine's hostility toward Silver to scare him away.

A couple of elders in the park went about rescuing him, and two times these animal friendly women caught him and took him to shelters where he was refused.

Finally, on the third try, Silver was accepted into a county shelter. But even though he was essentially safe, Sonja couldn't take it. She had to fix the screen and bring him back home.

Raised with newborn litters of both puppies and kittens surrounding her since her toddler years, Sonja had an idea inspired by her personal animal spirits that she has always felt live in her heart. Born on Christmas eve, she was named Sonja Noel, a spritely woman full of life and joy and a lover of all animals.

She knew that she, Silver, and Sunshine were already a family, and she was going to be an instrument of the divine by getting Silver from the shelter and bringing him back to their forever home.

Love has prevailed, and the Sonja Noel family has settled in from the winter chill. The hissing has turned to tolerance and is slowly turning to love.

Sonja tells us that this is a story of a cat who knew his destiny and followed his heart. Their hearts were joined even before they met. The psychic abilities of mom and cat seem proven today.

Sonja wishes all of us to be united with our spirit animals and wishing for each of our cats many more happy lives. Meow.





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SILVER'S NINTH LIFE

A Little Side of Salsa

By Stacey Dexter

Food groups have a amusing way of crossing over as names for our pets. I've heard of—and met—Waffles, Hammy, Peanut, Apple, Pancakes, and Taco. Potato is my personal favorite.

Some are fitting. Some are weird. Some are hilarious, and some are just meant to be.

Food names were the last thing on my mind when I decided to become a foster mom. I had not fostered before and felt conflicted: would the dog attach to me and then suffer emotional distress when adopted?

I had been thinking about it forever, so in January I filled out an application for the Verde Valley Humane Society in Cottonwood, Arizona. Within a few days, I agreed to meet Christine, head of the behavior team, to talk about options and needs.

After hearing the bad news that I wouldn't be fostering any puppies (sorry!), I asked who needed the most help. She paused only a moment before saying, "Salsa."

Salsa had been rescued with her puppies near the Verde River in Cornville. After they were all brought to VVHS, the puppies were kept until they were old enough to be adopted. Everyone found good homes except Mama Salsa.

She was overlooked multiple times for an entire year—not because of aggression or behavioral issues, and not even for her unknown breed (pointer/hound mix?).

Her shyness with humans made potential adopters... well, shy away from her.

Salsa really just needed a chance. After hearing her story, I really wanted to help, so Christine brought Salsa out to meet me.

She's a beautiful medium-sized dog, about three years old, all white with black patches over each eye, and her ears spotted with black dots.

I didn't interact with her initially, even though my first instinct was to reach out and pat her head. Arggh!

We walked with her for a bit. That went well, so I fetched my dog, Woody (also a VVHS rescue), from my Jeep to see how they would co-exist together. After walking companionably for twenty minutes or so, we decided that Salsa would come home with us.



Deep breath. What were we in for?

It was obvious that riding in a vehicle didn't come naturally for her. After attempting to get her to jump in, I boosted her 28-pound bottom into the front seat and attached her to a tether. Our trip to the house was only a five- to ten-minute drive, and Salsa's eyes were wide with fear and wonder.

She jumps into the car beautifully now and sits calmly while we drive, though using the windshield wipers... What?!? She's used to those now, too.

At the house, we went directly into the backyard. She did the usual thing most rescue dogs do: darted around in every direction, stopped only to pee, and then alternated between coming to me and running away. I expected this behavior and just let her decompress and familiarize herself with her new surroundings.

I was as nonchalant as possible when we went inside and talked calmly and softly, so as to not overwhelm her. I showed her the water bowl and pulled out a few treats.

She began to settle, taking cues from Woody, and plopped into a dog bed.

As I sat down to watch the news, Salsa lay across my lap, no longer fearful of me. As soon as the anchor came on, Salsa was surprised at a human talking through this contraption. First she growled, then she howled!

She was genuinely taken aback, so I don't think Salsa has lived in a house

before, given her lack of exposure to something that most humans have in their home.

Again, acting like this were just another day, I went out to the yard to hang something on my clothesline. I was back in under a minute, and when I entered the house, there stood Salsa... on my kitchen counter. Ummm, no.

I quietly laughed and took a picture before lifting her down and telling her no.

I knew it was best to clear the counter of any food for a short time, as Salsa quickly learned that this was a definite no-no. Her many days of fending for herself had conditioned her to grab any food she could. She just needed some training and consistency, and doesn't do this anymore.

Fostering Salsa has been a rewarding and fun experience. She makes me laugh every day. We will keep her with us until the right person(s) comes along.

She isn't afraid of other dogs, and exposing her to our friends is helping her to gain confidence in trusting humans. What we learn about her offers valuable information that we'll pass along to Salsa's potential adopters, which will give her a better chance of finding her forever home.

Please consider fostering a dog or cat? It frees up much-needed real estate in the shelter, gives the animals a way to feel wanted and loved, AND your observations could help them become more adoptable.

A little side of Salsa has been so enjoyable—you should try it and see for yourself!

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What is Compounding?

By Kelsey Herring

Prescription compounding is a subset of pharmacy where a specially trained pharmacist prepares custom prescription medications to meet the needs of their community.

Compounding allows for patient-specific prescriptions, filling a gap left by large pharmaceutical manufacturing. It's old-fashioned pharmacy.

Before large pharmaceutical companies were mass producing medications, prescriptions all had to be taken to a pharmacist to be made from scratch. Over the years, the industry of compounding has changed drastically, with retail pharmacies on every corner. Compounding is now considered a specialty.

There are two different types of compounding pharmacies: sterile and non-sterile. Non-sterile pharmacies can compound oral, topical, vaginal, and rectal prescriptions. This includes capsules, suspensions, creams, gels, nasal sprays, lozenges, suppositories and ear drops. Sterile pharmacies can compound everything that non-sterile pharmacies can, as well as injectable dosage forms and eye drops.

Compounding pharmacies are highly regulated. They must follow guidelines from the FDA, DEA, and the United States Pharmacopoeia. They are also subject to random inspections from the FDA and the State Board of Pharmacy.

Each compounded medication must be formulated by a qualified pharmacist and made by a trained and certified pharmacy technician.

In order for a prescription to be compounded, it must not be available commercially (that is, from a regular retail pharmacy). For example, prescriptions can be compounded if the strength is different, the dosage form is different, or if the patient has an allergy to an ingredient in the manufactured product.

Perhaps a patient cannot tolerate peanut oil, or has an allergy to corn: they may need their prescription specially formulated and made. Compounding allows for physicians and veterinarians to order exactly what the patient needs, regardless of the commercially available product.

A prescription may also be compounded if the FDA places a certain medication on a drug shortage list.



This all comes in very handy when we dive into the world of veterinary medicine, because most commercially available drugs entered the market for use in humans only. This means the dosage form, as well as the dose, is probably not appropriate for all animals.

Imagine having a ten-pound dachshund that falls ill and needs an antibiotic. What if the dose this little dog needs is only one-eighth of what's available for humans? Must the owner try to cut the tablet into eight pieces, hoping they're being as consistent as possible?



Fortunately, the veterinarian is able to call the prescription in to a local compounding pharmacy.

The specially trained pharmacist is able to make a formula that is custom for each animal. This not only improves accuracy of the medication, but it also greatly increases the animal's tolerance to it. This is very important when we have to give our furry friends their medications two to three times per day.

Local compounding pharmacies help animals with many different conditions: antibiotics for short or long term infections, transdermal methimazole for hyperthyroidism, fluoxetine and amitriptyline for behavioral issues, potassium bromide and diazepam for seizure control, just to name a few.

For the picky pet who doesn't like pills, compounding pharmacies can also add flavoring to make suspen-



sions more palatable for your critter. Whether it's chicken-flavored steroids, fish-flavored antibiotics, or beef-flavored anti-anxiety medication, prescriptions made by a compounding pharmacist meet the needs of the animal.

Most compounding pharmacies make prescriptions for dogs, cats, horses, rodents, reptiles, avians, and every creature in between!

Compounding pharmacists work closely with their local veterinarians to ensure each patient population gets exactly what they need.

Questions? Call your local compounding pharmacy in Flagstaff at 928-526-2446. Mortar and Pestle is located at 1928 N 2nd Street in Flagstaff, Arizona. They've been working with local veterinarians for more than 15 years to provide medications to all the animals in Northern Arizona.

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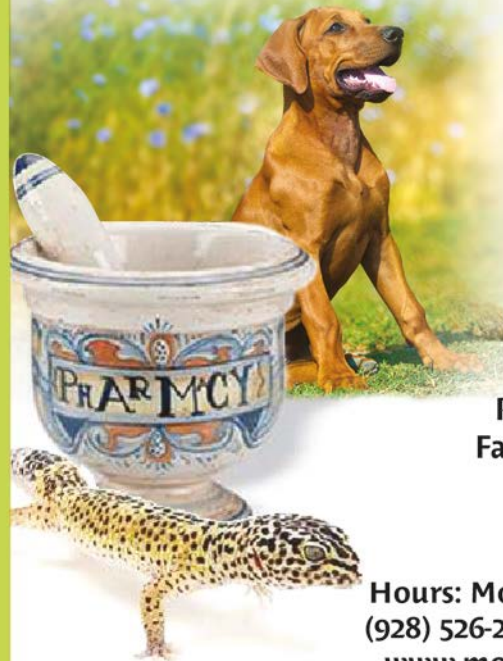


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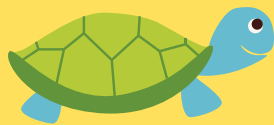


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Unleash the Fun: Your Dog-Friendly Staycation in Flagstaff

Story by Stacey Wittig. Photos courtesy of Discover Flagstaff.

You're one lucky dog owner, living in Northern Arizona! As spring approaches, it's time to treat yourself and your furry friend to a staycation right here in our mountain paradise. Did you know that USA Today named Flagstaff the best city for a dog-friendly vacation? According to their methodology, we've got about 39 pet-friendly restaurants per 100,000 residents, so you and your pup are in for a treat.

Dining Out with Your Pooch

You've got plenty of options to chow down with your canine companion:

- **Dirty Birdies Sports Bar & Grill:** You can enjoy a casual meal while your K9 buddy lounges on their dog-friendly patio.
- **The Station Cafe:** You'll love the kid and dog-friendly atmosphere on their outdoor patio.
- **Mother Road Brewing Company:** You can sip on a craft beer while your four-legged traveling companion relaxes by your side.

Don't forget to pack a portable water bowl and some treats to keep your furry friend happy.

Pawsome Accommodations

Even though you're a local, you deserve a night away from home. You've got dozens of dog-friendly options to choose from, including:

- **High Country Motor Lodge:** You and your pup can enjoy a stay at one of the best boutique hotels in Flagstaff. It's uniquely designed with the adventurous spirit in mind, blending a passion for river running and an appreciation of dark skies.
- **Drury Inn & Suites Flagstaff:** You'll find a pet-friendly atmosphere right on NAU's campus.
- **Americana Motor Hotel:** You'll love their pet-friendly amenities, including a dog wash.

Tail-Wagging Adventures

You know, the best part of Flagstaff is exploring the great outdoors with your dog. Here are some spots you can't miss:

- **Buffalo Park:** You and your pooch will love the easy 2-mile loop with stunning views.
- **Lake Mary:** Paddleboard with your pooch on Lake Mary.



- **Thorpe Bark Park:** You can let your dog run free and make new friends at this popular off-leash area.

Cultural Experiences for You and Your Pup

You'll be amazed at how dog-friendly Flagstaff's cultural scene is:

- **Public Art Tour:** You can take a self-guided walking tour of Flagstaff's public art collection with your furry friend.
- **Take a free Flagstaff Route 66 Audio Tour:** You'll discover Flagstaff's rich history together.
- **Freaky Foot Tours:** Your furry pal is welcome on these fun, downtown haunted tours.

Tips for a Successful Staycation

- **Visit the Flagstaff Visitor Center:** Pick up a free dog bowl with proof of local lodging and get info on the free Route 66 audio tour.
- **Check pet policies:** Confirm specific rules and any fees.
- **Be a responsible pet owner:** Always clean up after your dog and keep them leashed in required areas.
- **Pack essentials:** Bring your dog's favorite toys, bed, and plenty of water.

A staycation in Flagstaff offers the perfect opportunity to see our hometown through fresh eyes while bonding with your furry traveling companion. From scenic hikes to pet-friendly patios, you'll find countless ways to create lasting memories without the stress of long-distance travel.

So, leash up, step out, and rediscover why Flagstaff truly is a dog's (and dog owner's) best friend.

Stacey Wittig is a travel writer based in Flagstaff. Get more travel tips at: UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com

Celebration of Life: Wally

By Donn Moseley

It was April 2009, when I headed to the Orange County Fairgrounds to exhibit my work of K-9 Kool Hats at the Annual Pet Expo. Along with me, there were my three employees, and for those that have seen my booth, you recognize that to mean the four-legged type.

Yes, my dogs happily model our hats on a cushioned table inside our booth. They love their work, and we love the opportunity of being together in doing so. Close to our booth location was the adoption parade that takes place at the festival for the many organizations that hope to find new homes for their adoptees.

Unbeknownst to me, one of their candidates had wandered away from the adoption stage and found his way into my booth. The sight of any dog coming to my booth brings me joy, but rarely do I get one that comes on his own as this little feller did. He had the look of a wire-haired dachshund.

I took him back to his guardians and resumed my work.

Sure enough, on Saturday—the second day of the show—all events continued, including the adoptions. And sure enough, the event of the previous day repeat-



ed itself. That little dachshund again wandered over to my booth on his own. When another close-by exhibitor witnessed this for the second time, she remarked that perhaps it was a sign I should well heed.

I had no intention of adopting a new dog at that time, especially during our doing an out-of-state show in California. But “that may be a sign” stuck with me. And on the third and final day of the show, I was led to have this little wanderer join our pack. Before the departure that day, we had our new member join our pack, and we named him Wally.

It wasn't me who had made the decision: I was led by all-knowing God who ordained it. I probably knew that early on, but after sixteen years, I have more than living proof of this gift.

Wally was just the perfect dog. The perfect companion, the perfect pack-member, the perfect employee. He made—or at least attempted to make—friends with every other living creature he met. He loved every person, every dog, every cat, and even those animals of the wild he en-

countered. He just exuded friendliness and acceptance to each one.

To him, every human or critter was worthy of his friendship. And almost all of them responded unequivocally. He just had that gift. He was a dog who solely wanted to please, as if he was thinking of others more than himself. Hmm... where have we humans been instructed on that?

There was nothing that I asked where he wasn't eager to comply. He jumped at the call of his name. He loved his job, his playtime, his hikes, and he loved his Dad. Truly, he loved his life. He gave me so much and taught me so much right along with that. If you knew Wally, you were touched by Wally.

I'm writing these words now and sharing them with you because I recently had to say goodbye to Wally. He deserves a tribute for all that he gave over seventeen years of a glorious, happy, and giving life. He was truly a gift.



I know many of you will recognize him from my many shows at the Courthouse. It's going to be very difficult to not see him on the working-models table this summer or in his Top Sales-dog chair.

Even as I'm trying, through my current grief, I'll do my best to always honor him. The gift of Wally was more than I deserved, but how true that is for most all that comes from God.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: WALLY

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A MILE IN THEIR PAWS: BEING MORE-THAN-HUMAN FOR OUR PACKMATES AND OUR PLANET

By Solana Kline, honorary four-legger

Humans are weird. I say this when trying to imagine why a species would choose to live so out of sync with their ecological systems that they rely on for survival.

I've spent my career as a cultural anthropologist and human geographer, exploring human-nature relationships and seeing how our learned cultural norms impact our ecological communities in positive and negative ways. My doggie comrades are not just honorary PhD's but are also partial impetus for my research representing the rights and agency of our more-than-human comrades here on Earth. More-than-humans are the non-humans or other-than-humans who we share the planet with.

The more-than-human research field is full of creative methods to try and capture the activity, communication, life, actions, agency, and communities of more-than-humans. Researchers are literally putting their noses to the ground to experience the world as closely to the more-than-humans as possible. For some, this means sitting still for hours as the boulder does, and for others it means crawling hand over foot, belly to the ground as the water monitor does.

Think about different scales of space-time for each species or piece of matter, where time and distance (or space) are relative to the being who is experiencing it. Think of how long it might take a minuscule mite to travel ten feet, versus how long it would take you to walk it. Or how your perception of the world might change based what senses are keen in your species, or how massive a human would seem to a stink bug raising his rear in warning out on the trail. This is the relativity of space-time and the importance of perspective.

In industrialized human cultures, humans assume they are exceptional, or better-than other beings. This keeps us from empathizing, connecting, and feeling the world with them—a detrimental way to live on a planet that's made of interconnected and interdependent webs of life and livelihoods.

As much as we'd like to think we are special: we aren't, we are just weird! Stepping into the paws and hooves of our four-leggers sure can make a difference in how we are able to empathize with our pack/herd mates. Their own unique and relative space-time impacts how they experience the world, how they interact with us, and how they express their needs.

So, in best efforts to walk a mile in their paws, I've been going full canine, following Betty and Mickey's lead into every bush and gully, putting my bare hands and feet on the ground, awkwardly ambling around after them—admittedly feeling



Following the pack off-piste after some good sniffs



Mountain-goating with the pack down Spring run-off near Cottonwood

a bit jealous that I don't have a tail to wag. Imagine the freedom to poo immediately when the need arose? Or to sprint off wildly after a squirrel's chirp?

Terrier vista: she can barely see above the golden Winter grasses blowing against her snout and shoulders, relying on her senses of smell and hearing to geolocate the underground mouse tunnels she is tracking. Betty has always been one to find the highest point to survey her territory, so I lift her up to my gaze height and she perks, eyes and ears and sniffs on point to gather in all of this new information.

I try it with Mickey too, but he is a dense boy, so he got about half again as tall but enjoyed the new perspective all the same.

I get down on all fours to wrestle, bum-slaming the dogs, mouth open, snorting and growling, pawing their sides, copycatting their play styles. As soon as I move down to their height and body position to play, they immediately include me in their wrestling, whereas when I am an upright two-legger, they wonder how to encourage me to join in.

Out on a trail run, they catch a rogue sniff on an outbound breeze and follow it into the hillside, I pursue, and while I can't smell 1/10,000th as well as they can, I use my other senses to understand



Following our ears in the high-country

what they are doing. I see jackrabbit tracks and pellets in and out of the terrain, but when the pups stop to gulp down an occasional rabbit dropping, I decide I've got enough fiber in my diet.

I get on all fours at the top of a staircase. Jeesh, that is steep! No wonder Mickey descends with both front feet together, followed by his rear feet together, awkwardly bucking his bum side to side while he rocking-horses down.

Betts barrels through a wall of tumbleweeds and screeches to a halt, looking stuck and worried. A branch

of tumbleweed is wrapped into her hair across the insides of her rear legs, effectively shackling them together with desert prongs. If I had a relatively sized prickly bush stuck between my legs, I imagine it would be three feet wide.

The hounds drift off into dreamland, feet and nosers going a hundred miles an hour, eyes fluttering to match their light dreaming woofs. I lay next to them, mimicking their motions and trying to imagine the who/what/where/why of their dreams. Galloping across Spring grassfields to a steak dinner? Hounding through hill and burrow, hot on deer musk?

I join in Betty and Mickey's morning ritual of snuggles, where they simultaneously decide upon waking up to flip-flop onto their backs, full beast-mode, wriggling wildly and scratching their backs and lovingly clashing their open mouths together. They welcome my joining-in, full smiles wrapped around all our mugs, being in the moment and in joy to start the day with my pals. Yes, please!



Taking in afternoon camping naps

Going more-than-human with our packs and herds is more than just a silly experiment, it is a potent means of thinking and viewing and feeling and living as other and together. This becomes an essential practice for us humans as we ponder how we want to co-exist with our planetary comrades, including with our fellow humans. The more we consider others in our world, the more we are part-of our world.

It reminds us that we're embedded within and inseparable from the infinitely intricate and deliciously delicate balance of species and matter all around us—we belong to all these more-than-humans, and we belong to our fellow humans. And while you might be leery to risk being known as the weirdo on the trail, or in your neighborhood, practicing being more-than-human is sure fire way to remember our innate connections to all life on the planet, and it all starts right here with our four-leggers.

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