

# Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

Also Serving Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Jerome, & NAZ

December 2025/January 2026  
FlagstaffSedonaDog.com

happy  
NEW  
Year

## Naughty or Nice?

High-Altitude Hounds

2026 Top Pet Travel

Feeding Yourself &  
Your Pets

TO A GOOD HOME  
**FREE**  
ALWAYS

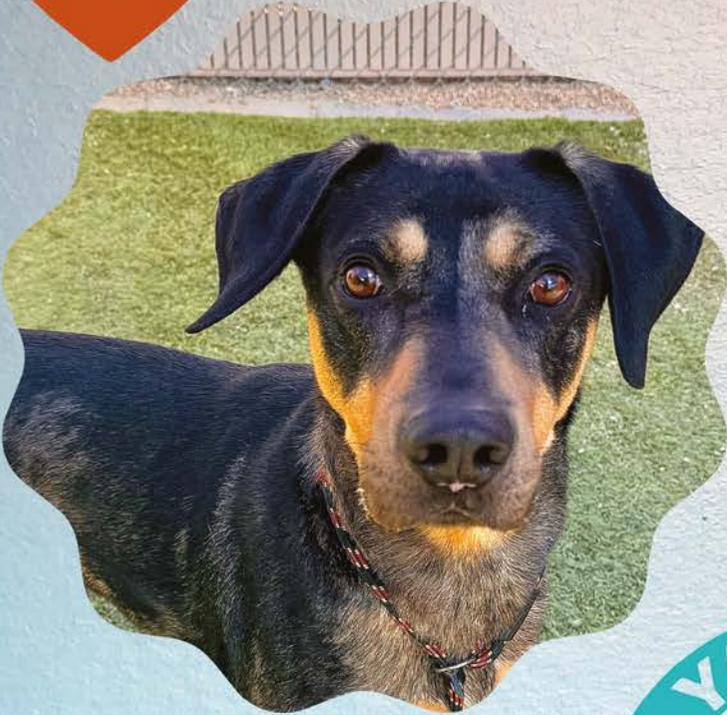
Introducing Our Cover Dog ~ Kate

Highlighting Our Local Rescue Community For 14 Years ♦ CANINE • FELINE • EQUINE

**ADOPT**  
to  
**ADOPT**



*Charlie*



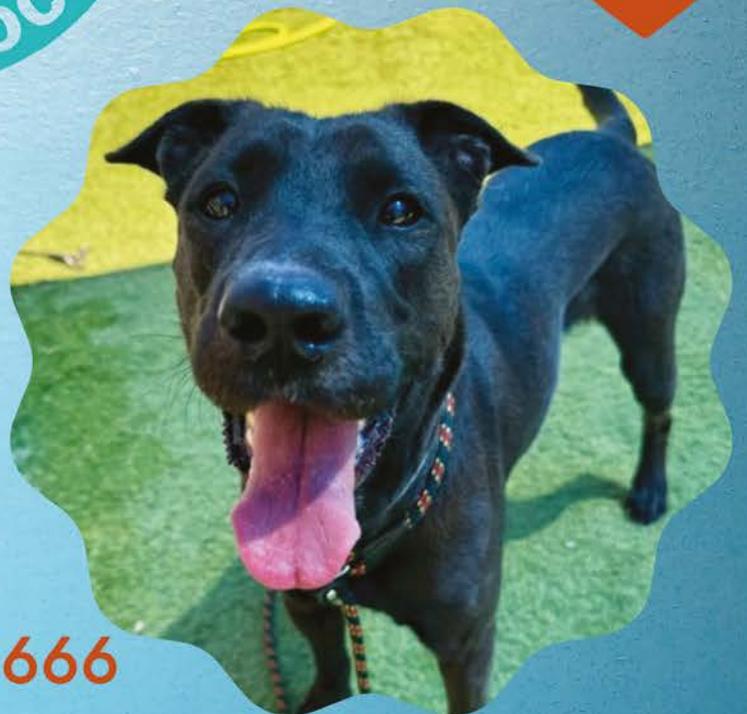
*Ringo*



*Mocha  
Brown*



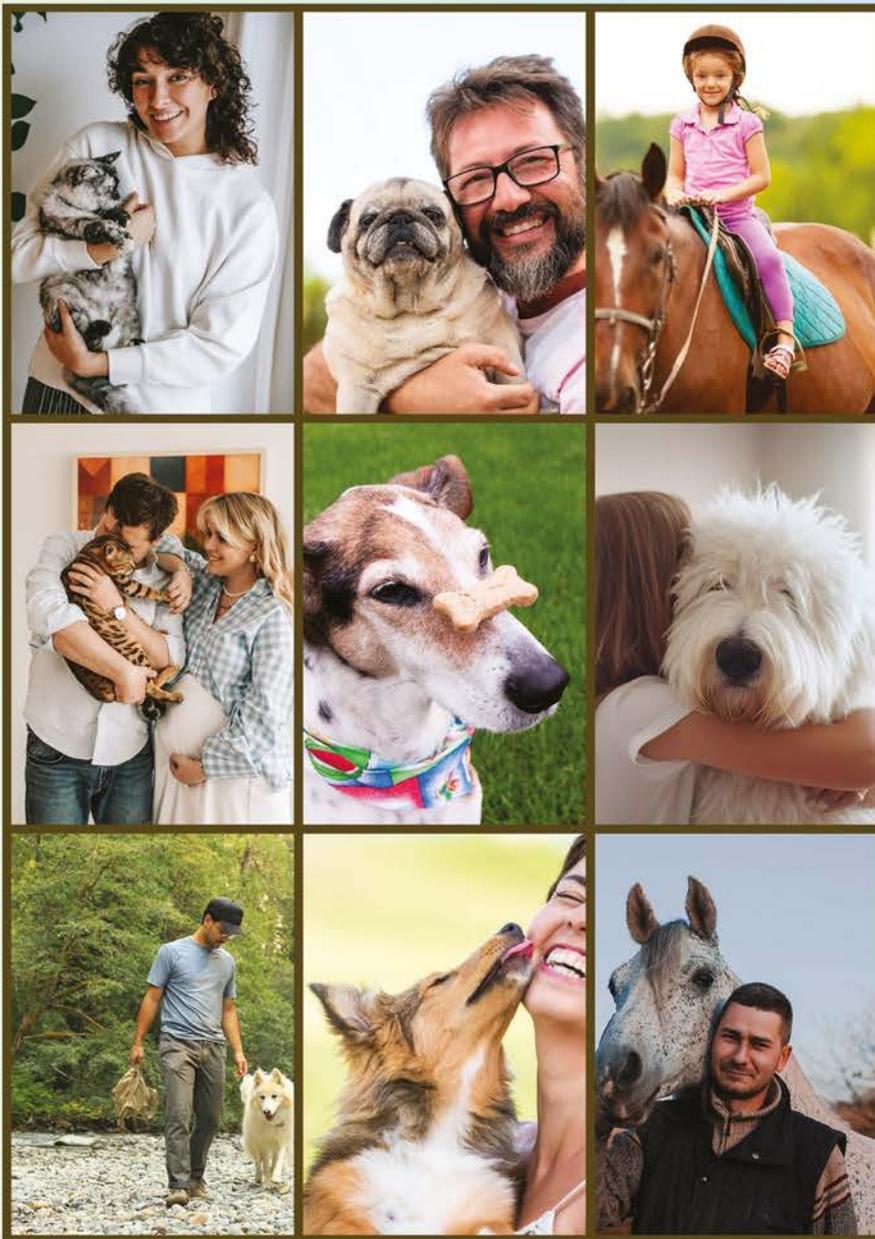
*Misty*



928-445-2666  
yavapaihumane.org

# LET US CARE FOR YOUR PETS

*At Chino Valley Animal Hospital, it is our mission to provide the best patient-centered care to our community; through our commitment to encouraging a positive culture, showing compassion, and cultivating growth.*



## OUR SERVICES

**PET WELLNESS  
VACCINATIONS  
SPAY & NEUTER  
PET GROOMING  
PET BOARDING  
DENTAL CARE  
LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE  
EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE**



**3601 N Hwy 89, Chino Valley  
928-636-4382  
chinovalleyanimalhospital.com**

# Flagstaff-Sedona Dog

## CONTENTS

Kate, Our Cover Dog.....	5
Tucker's Take .....	6
Calendar.....	8
Rescue Resources .....	8
Rescue Tales .....	10
Will Your Dog Be Naughty or Nice This Holiday Season?.....	12
<i>Njeri Dean</i>	
Dogs for Adoption .....	13
Catty Daze and Holidaze.....	14
<i>By Shadow the Cat, as told to Kay Lockett</i>	
Cats for Adoption .....	15
High-Altitude Hounds.....	16
<i>Solana Kline</i>	
Top Places to Travel with Your Pets in 2026... ..	18
<i>Stacey Wittig</i>	
How to Feed Yourself and Your Pets This Holiday Season.....	20
<i>Stacey Dexter</i>	
Celebration of Life: Bucky.....	22
<i>Jill Luculano</i>	

### **FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE**

Cherie L. Dreves – Publisher/Owner

PO Box 11868, Prescott AZ 86304 • (928) 445-4811

cherie@reddogpublishing.net

Website: FlagstaffSedonaDog.com • Facebook: FlagstaffSedonaDog

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog reserves the right to editorial control of all articles, stories and letters to the editor. Flagstaff-Sedona Dog assumes no responsibility for errors within its publication. The views herein do not necessarily represent the policies of Flagstaff-Sedona Dog and should not be construed as endorsements.

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog was established in August of 2011 and is a nonpartisan publication published bimonthly in Feb/Mar; Apr/May; Jun/Jul; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov; and Dec/Jan by Red Dog Publishing LLC. Entire contents copyright 2026 by Flagstaff-Sedona Dog. Layout and design by Kim Prosser, Graphics Manager.



### **PUBLISHER**

Cherie L Dreves

### **ADVERTISING**

(928) 445-4811

Cherie@reddogpublishing.net

### **STAFF CONTRIBUTORS**

*Cover photo by Sandra Munz*



Njeri Dean  
*Feature Writer*



Stacey Dexter



Solana Kline



Kay Lockett



Stacey Wittig





## 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 Certificate
- 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 - 1/1, 3/1, 5/1, 7/1, 9/1 and 11/1**

# CALL THE DOG RIGHT TO YOUR INBOX!



Go to  
**flagstaffsedonadog.com**  
& subscribe



RECEIVE EXCLUSIVE  
SUBSCRIBER ONLY  
CONTENT



NEVER MISS ANOTHER DOG!



## Kate, Our Cover Dog

**Name:** I'm Kate, named after Big Nose Kate, Doc Holiday's lady. She was her own, strong woman. Me, too.

**Hometown:** I'm a California born gal, but my heart is in Arizona.

**Age:** I will be turning 12 in January.

**Favorite brand of kibble:** Open Farm Beef with Ancient Grains.

**Favorite people food:** What? There's a difference? Mom makes my dinners with chicken or beef and lots of veggies. Sweet potatoes are yummy!

**Favorite toy:** I LOVE TOYS—stuffed toys, balls and those bumper things.

**Favorite outdoor activity:** Playing ball or bumper fetch with my new little brother, Cody. Sometimes I hang out on the patio with Chili, the horse. I love him. He shares his carrots.

**Favorite indoor activity:** I love to play with toys and check out the bags Mom brings home from Costco and the market for good stuff. Sleeping or watching critters on TV is always good.



Watching Cody chase the vacuum is fun too.

**Favorite nap spot:** Anywhere I feel like it! The couch is good, but in summer it's the tile floor.

**Fitness regimen:** Playing ball and taking walks.

**Describe your perfect canine pal:** My new little brother. Mom went to Woofstock and brought

him home from a rescue. He's crazy, but I like playing with him. I taught him how to fetch a ball.

**Describe your perfect day:** A nice breakfast, play ball with Cody, a nap and a walk. Afternoons I nap, have a snack, then check out the perimeter. I can't let a new or unique smell go undetected! Seeing my neighbor Heidi is always great. After dinner, Cody and I share an apple with Chili, take a walk and settle in for the evening and a nice brushing. Life is good.

**Who took your photo:** Mom did. She's always taking our picture!



# Tucker's Take



## Fan of Fans

"Mmmph mmpfh?" I stood waiting for an answer from Keira who was lounging under the dining room table.

She warily answered me with, "I can't understand you with that sheet of paper in your mouth."

I dropped the paper and reiterated my question. "Where's Dad?"

Keira yawned and went into a lengthy answer on why she would have no idea as she was in the middle of her beauty rest and wasn't responsible for everyone's comings and goings.

I snatched up my paper and left her in mid-paragraph. I was on a mission, and I didn't have time. 'On to the next one, son,' as Dale Brisby says.

Pru was looking through the slats of the fence to see what the neighbors were up to.

"Pru... where's Dad?"

She looked at the sheet of paper at my feet and asked, "Why?" before turning her attention back to the neighbors.

I was starting to lose a bit of my patience. "Because I need to write a letter to someone, and I don't have oppositional thumbs."

"What for?" She didn't bother to turn and look at me.

I decided to go look for Dad for myself.

Going through the back garden gate, I ran into Hazel sunning herself.

"Seen Dad lately, Haze?"

A gust of wind lifted the paper at my feet, raised it gently like a feath-

er, and it slowly gained enough altitude to go over the fence.

"Doggone it... Confounded stupid wind!"

Hazel raised up, quizzical. "Don't think I've ever heard a sheriff swear before."

If my day kept going this way, everyone might hear a sheriff declare a "blue steak" of frustration and disappointment.

I took a deep breath and tried that "Center down" thing Dad talks about to try to calm himself and was reassessing my options when Mom came out the back door.

She looked flustered and hurriedly asked Pru where Dad was.

Not waiting for an answer, she marched through the garden gate looking around in all directions. Whatever was going on, it looked serious.

Mom called out for Dad pretty loudly. Loud enough to bring Keira from inside and Pru from her Gladys Kravitz observation post. They both came running—hoping for fireworks, I guess.

Dad popped up on the other side of the fence, where he'd been pulling weeds.

"Did you take the bank statement off my desk?" Mom asked loudly enough for the neighbors to stop working on their car.

Dad held up a piece of paper, "You mean this bank statement? The one with a wet corner and a couple of teeth marks?"

Mom retrieved the paper and turned to Keira and Pru, who on normal days would be the most likely suspects. I knew I had to act

quickly before an injustice happened.

I ran to get between Mom and the girls and barked twice loudly and firmly to stop the impending interrogation. In all my years as sheriff of the pack, I never thought I'd become an unintentional criminal, a thief.

Mom knelt down to me and asked me what was wrong. I hung my head and said, "I just wanted to write a letter to the person who invented the electric floor-fan. Now that I'm older, it's a real comfort to me. How the air flows over my thick white coat and its apricot highlights. The soft vibration I can feel through the floor as I sleep.

"I just thought they might want to know how much it means to me to be able to rest in front of it after a long day of enforcing the law."

Mom turned the paper over and, with the pen she already had in her hand, wrote down what I had

said. She got up, and I followed her inside where she got an envelope and put the paper inside.

I ran to the office window to watch her walk outside to put it in the mailbox. Then I ran to the front door to meet her.

"Mom... you didn't put up the flag."

She hesitated for a second, then went back and raised the flag.

She came back in and gave me the biggest hug ever before whispering, "It's all good, Sheriff Tucker. Anytime you need paper, just ask and I'll give you special paper."

Just as the embrace ended, we heard the crunch of gravel out front, and I knew the Mail Lady had come. Mom and I both heard the slamming of the mailbox door, but oddly enough Mom stood up with very wide eyes, and it almost looked like she mouthed the words, "Doggone it."

~Reformed Criminal Tucker Oso

**Cozy Reads for Winter**

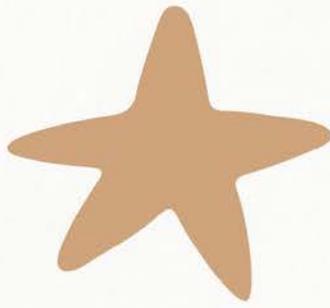
**Hazel Howls**  
by David W. Dreves

**The Action Message of Mark**  
by Carl Wicker

**The Sapphire Series - Book 1**  
**Bear gets her Wings**  
C.L. DREVES

available at **amazon**

Red Dog Publishing, LLC



WE WISH YOU A  
*Merry Christmas*



## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING ADOPTIONS & EVENTS

#### HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE

- Low Cost Vaccination Clinic. 1st Sat every month, 8a-10a. 11665 N US Hwy 89, Flagstaff. No appt necessary; 1st come/1st served; up to 40 cats/dogs total each clinic. Info: [tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4](http://tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4) (click on the calendar event); [highcountryhumane.org](http://highcountryhumane.org), 928-526-0742.

- Monthly Dog Adoption Event—1st Sat every month, 11a-2p. Corner of Babbitt's Backcountry Outfitters, 12 E Aspen Ave, Flagstaff. Meet, play, adopt.
- Monthly Dog Adoption Event—2nd Sat every month, 10a-2p., Flagstaff Mall (inside by fireplace), 4650 US-89. Meet, play, adopt.
- Monthly Dog Adoption Event—Check calendar for dates/times: [tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4](http://tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4). Dark Sky Brewing Co., 103 W Birch Ave, Flagstaff. Meet, play, adopt.
- Pints and Poses—Puppy Yoga: monthly dog adoption event. Check calendar for dates, times, info & to register: [tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4](http://tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4). Dark Sky Brewing Co., 103 W Birch Ave, Flagstaff. All ages welcome at relaxing yoga session surrounded by wagging tails and playful energy. All puppies participating are

looking for their forever homes. 50% ticket proceeds benefit High Country Humane.

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY (YHS)  
Onsite Adoptions and Lost & Found Department M-F Noon-5:30 by appt. Sat 11:30-4:30. 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd., Prescott. Please call for additional details or info 928-445-2666.

YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY  
THRIFT STORE  
Tue-Sat 9-4. Donations accepted Wed-Sat 9-2. Every Tue is 25% OFF for Veterans & Active Duty Military. Every Wed is 25% OFF for Seniors (55 & over). 1601 Iron Springs Road, Prescott 928-445-5668



## Rescue Resources

For an expanded view of  
Rescue Resources, visit [PrescottDog.com](http://PrescottDog.com) &  
[FlagstaffSedonaDog.com](http://FlagstaffSedonaDog.com)



<b>AARF ANIMAL RESCUE</b> 6639 S. Country Rd., Mayer <a href="mailto:aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com">aarfanimalrescue@gmail.com</a> 928-925-7219, <a href="http://aarfrescue.net">aarfrescue.net</a>	<b>CIRCLE L RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE &amp; SANCTUARY</b> Daytime 928-925-1926, Prescott Valley	<b>HUMANE SOCIETY OF WICKENBURG</b> 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg 928-684-8801 <a href="http://wickenburghumane.com">wickenburghumane.com</a>	<b>SUNRISE SANCTUARY &amp; RESCUE</b> Prescott, <a href="http://sunrisesanctuaryrescue.org">sunrisesanctuaryrescue.org</a> <a href="mailto:sunrisesanctuaryrescue@gmail.com">sunrisesanctuaryrescue@gmail.com</a>
<b>ARIZONA BORDER COLLIE RESCUE</b> Tempe, 480-422-5366 <a href="http://azbcr.org">azbcr.org</a>	<b>COCONINO HUMANE ASSOCIATION</b> 3501 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff 928-526-1076, <a href="http://coconinohumane.org">coconinohumane.org</a>	<b>LITTLE ORPHAN ANIMALS</b> Mayer, 678-206-7505 <a href="mailto:orphananimals@aol.com">orphananimals@aol.com</a>	<b>TUBA CITY HUMANE SOCIETY</b> 928-793-2364, <a href="http://tubacityhumanesociety.org">tubacityhumanesociety.org</a>
<b>ARK CAT SANCTUARY</b> Parks, 928-635-5909 <a href="http://arkcatsanctuary.org">arkcatsanctuary.org</a>	<b>DESERT LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE</b> Glendale, 480-899-5227 <a href="http://dlraz.org">dlraz.org</a>	<b>MISS KITTY'S CAT HOUSE</b> 928-445-5411 <a href="http://misskittyscathouse.org">misskittyscathouse.org</a>	<b>UNDERDOG ANIMAL RESCUE &amp; REHAB</b> Moab, 435-260-8033 <a href="http://underdogrescuemoab.org">underdogrescuemoab.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@underdogrescuemoab.org">info@underdogrescuemoab.org</a>
<b>BARB'S DOG RESCUE</b> Puerto Penasco, MX <a href="http://barbsdogrescue.org">barbsdogrescue.org</a> , 928-899-1426 <a href="mailto:barbsdogrescue@gmail.com">barbsdogrescue@gmail.com</a>	<b>DOGTREE PINES SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY</b> 1525 S Dogtree Lane, Prescott <a href="mailto:olddogs@dogtreepines.com">olddogs@dogtreepines.com</a> 667-364-8733, <a href="http://dogtreepines.com">dogtreepines.com</a>	<b>PEOPLE FOR PAWS AZ RESCUE</b> <a href="http://peopleforpawsaz.org">peopleforpawsaz.org</a> <a href="mailto:Info@peopleforpawsaz.org">Info@peopleforpawsaz.org</a>	<b>UNITED ANIMAL FRIENDS</b> Prescott, 928-778-2924 <a href="http://unitedanimalfriends.org">unitedanimalfriends.org</a>
<b>BLACKHAT HUMANE SOCIETY</b> Native American Reservation Animals 928-899-3942 <a href="mailto:blackhathumane@gmail.com">blackhathumane@gmail.com</a>	<b>FREEDOM FRENCHIE RESCUE</b> Mesa, (630) 345-0493 <a href="http://freedomfrenchie.org">freedomfrenchie.org</a>	<b>PETEY'S PLAYGROUND</b> 22448 State Highway 89, Yarnell <a href="mailto:peteysplayground@gmail.com">peteysplayground@gmail.com</a> 928-713-1375, <a href="http://peteysplayground.org">peteysplayground.org</a>	<b>VERDE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY</b> 1520 W. Mingus Ave, Cottonwood 928-634-7387 <a href="http://VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org">VerdeValleyHumaneSociety.org</a>
<b>BLUE MOON RESCUE &amp; SANCTUARY</b> 1851 E Perkinsville Rd, Chino Valley 928-925-7724, <a href="http://bluemoonrescue.org">bluemoonrescue.org</a>	<b>HEELING HEELERS HEARTS</b> Surprise, 623-226-2749 <a href="http://azblueheeler.com">azblueheeler.com</a>	<b>RED ROSE INSPIRATION FOR ANIMALS</b> Thriftique: 31 Bell Rock Plaza, Sedona <a href="mailto:info@redroseinspiration.org">info@redroseinspiration.org</a> 928-282-5278, <a href="http://redroseinspiration.org">redroseinspiration.org</a>	<b>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY</b> 1625 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott 928-445-2666 <a href="http://yavapaihumane.org">yavapaihumane.org</a>
<b>CATTY SHACK RESCUE</b> Prescott, (928) 778-6951 <a href="http://cattyshackrescue.org">cattyshackrescue.org</a>	<b>HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE</b> 11665 N, US-89, Flagstaff 928-526-0742 <a href="http://highcountryhumane.org">highcountryhumane.org</a>	<b>RESCUE A GOLDEN OF ARIZONA</b> Phoenix, 602-404-9663 <a href="http://golden-retriever.org">golden-retriever.org</a>	<b>YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY EQUINE CENTER</b> (928) 515-4947, Chino Valley <a href="http://yavapaihumane.org">yavapaihumane.org</a>
<b>CHINO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER</b> 1904 Voss Drive, Chino Valley <a href="mailto:cvas@chinoaz.net">cvas@chinoaz.net</a> , 928-636-4223 x7 <a href="http://chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption">chinoaz.net/164/Dog-Adoption</a>	<b>HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA</b> 2115 Shelby Dr 928-282-4679 <a href="http://humanesocietyofsedona.org">humanesocietyofsedona.org</a>	<b>SAVING PAWS RESCUE SHEPHERDS &amp; MALINOIS</b> Glendale, 480-737-6089 <a href="http://savingpawsrescueaz.org">savingpawsrescueaz.org</a>	<b>YAVAPAI HUMANE TRAPPERS ANIMAL RESCUE</b> Chino Valley <a href="http://yavapaihumanetrappers.org">yavapaihumanetrappers.org</a>



**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

# FUN & FESTIVE FIDO FAMILY ACTIVITIES

*Making Christmas Traditions*

## FAMILY RECIPE

Prepare a special treat just for Fido. Turkey, Chicken or Beef whole wheat biscuits. Homemade just for him.

## CAROLING

What could be more fun than caroling through the neighborhood while walking Fido?

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Get the keys, the K9 seatbelt and Fido. Hop in and go see the sights

## UNIQUE ADVENT CALENDAR

Create an Advent calendar just for Fido. 24 days of treats? He won't bother Santa's cookies! Choose a reusable wooden calendar or make your own!

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Prepare and hang pet safe decorations and lights together!

## CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS

Wear matching Pjs, sweaters or T-shirts. They're great for Christmas Morning pictures!

**Flagstaff-Sedona Dog**  
magazine



OAK CREEK  
SMALL ANIMAL  
CLINIC  
PLLC

## + URGENTCARE

JEANNINE KINNEY, DVM CHRISTINA BERTCH, DVM HOLLY JOHNSON, DVM

PROUDLY SERVING SEDONA & THE VERDE VALLEY FOR OVER **35** YEARS



**URGENT CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE  
6 DAYS A WEEK BY APPOINTMENT**



COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTIVE CARE  
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING  
ADVANCED DENTISTRY  
ADVANCED SURGICAL SERVICES  
INTERNAL MEDICINE & ONCOLOGY  
LASER THERAPY & ULTRASOUND  
DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY  
AVIAN & EXOTICS  
ACUPUNCTURE  
UNDERWATER TREADMILL THERAPY

VOTED BEST VETERINARY CLINIC SINCE 2003



MON-FRI 8:AM- 5:PM SAT 9:AM- 4:PM

5 PINON DR. & HWY 89A, WEST SEDONA  
928-282-1195 OAKCREEKCLINIC.COM



Getting Pumpkin situated in a safe but escape-proof pen also required some planning and arm waving. Her first enclosure wasn't foolproof enough for this powerhouse girl, but she knew she was home. She just wanted to wander around and meet her new luxury-ranch animal neighbors.



Maureen quickly learned that shaking a bucket of pellets is equivalent to the dog version of shaking a box of Milk Bones. Pumpkin would promptly waddle over for the goods. Maureen says that Pumpkin makes her dietary choices clear, and she praises

Maureen with happy grunts and tail wiggles. Apples, salad mix—and of course pumpkins—are the winners. Cauliflower, however, is to be avoided at all cost.

Since none of the local vets have experience with pigs, the next quest is getting Pumpkin medically checked over. Meanwhile, she's making herself quite at home in her new straw-lined digs, loving the care and attention that Maureen showers on her and is happy as a... well, as a pig.

*If you'd like to help put a smile on a stray animal's face, check out our volunteer opportunities on [blackhathumanesociety.org](http://blackhathumanesociety.org). We'd love to tell you about all the good things that happen at Blackhat Humane Society.*



### Sparkle Millie

Some dogs just have the sparkle. You know what we mean, right? When Millie first arrived at the Humane Society of Sedona after being found as a stray, we saw her sparkle right away. The happy smile on her face, the glimmer of excitement in her eyes... We knew this girl was special and that her bright and shiny personality would capture hearts everywhere.

Imagine how low our hearts have sunk because Millie is still here nearly a year later.

We've seen Millie live in her kennel, day after day, for hundreds of days. She enjoys her three walks a day—



Millie

wagging her tail with a little pep in her step. Then she returns to the little cot in her kennel and curls up into the tiniest little ball. Her smile goes, her sparkle fades.

You see, Millie doesn't do well in her kennel. She tries to make herself very small, which is so different than the big personality of hers we know and love. Even a year later, all of the sounds and uncertainty seem to make her uncomfortable, and we just want to give our sparkly girl the life she deserves.

Millie is a gorgeous dog with a gorgeous spirit. Her one blue eye and one brown eye fit her two sides perfectly. She can be a wild woman. She has a lot of energy and loves doing zoomies and playing with toys—almost too much. But she's also quite soft and tender.

Once Millie settles down after her bursts of energy, she'll snuggle close to her people and soak up all the love and scratches she can. She leans in hard and seems to crave that love. Quiet attention and soft-spoken words soothe her.

While she can get a little obsessive with her toys, staff members have been helping her work on her manners during playtime. Her excitement is contagious, and her zest for life makes everyone smile.

Millie would thrive with an active adopter who enjoys long walks and has plenty of time for evening snuggles. She needs a family committed to continuing her training and helping her become the very best version of herself. Because of her size and playful energy, Millie would do best in an adults-only home without other pets.

Millie is spayed, microchipped, up to date on her vaccines, and her adoption fee has been sponsored. As with all our adopted animals, we'd provide post-adoption support for Millie's new family.

If you're interested in Millie, please call us at the shelter at 928-282-4679. If you aren't able to adopt or foster her, you can still help by sharing her story with your friends and family. The more people who know about Millie, the better chance she has of finding her forever family.

We know she'll bring joy to the right person, and we desperately want to give her that chance. Can you help us find Sparkle Millie the heroes she needs to get her out of our shelter and into a home?

*Please visit [humanesocietyofsedona.org](http://humanesocietyofsedona.org) to learn more about Millie and all of our adoptable dogs.*



Do you own an Australian Shepherd, Cattle Dog, Boston Terrier, French Bulldog, Shih Tsu or Labrador Retriever? These breeds or mixes that include them are commonly affected by eye problems, like cataracts, glaucoma, and Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) to name a few.

Purebred dogs aren't the only ones who may have problems; any owner who suspects their dog may have eye problems should consult a board-certified canine ophthalmologist.

Glaucoma and corneal ulcers can cause significant eye pain, which could make your dog squint, paw at their face or even make them have aggressive tendencies due to discomfort.

Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) and advanced cataracts can lead to partial or total blindness. Dogs with impaired vision may become more anxious or fearful or become startled easily.

Getting your dog seen is difficult here in Yavapai County because there are no certified ophthalmologists in the area, so if you have a breed prone to eye diseases, it's essential to have their eyes checked to preserve their vision, comfort, and overall quality of life.

Here is a perfect opportunity. Dr. Cindy Mar, DVM DACVO is returning to Chino Valley, Arizona on March 13-15, 2026. Dr. Mar is board certified and able to perform exams for the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals' (OFA)

Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER).

Dr. Mar specializes in the medical and surgical management of animal eye diseases. She's particularly interested in determining the underlying cause of eye conditions and treating patients through the integration of medical, surgical, nutritional, and supportive therapies. She's dedicated to improving the quality of pets' lives through the maintenance of their ocular health.

Pre-registration for the eye clinic is required. If you'd like to bring your in for an exam, please download and complete the form at [cvctc.net](http://cvctc.net) on the Trials & Events page, and mail your check made out to CVCTC c/o Sharon Bryant, 2917 Maricopa St., Chino Valley, AZ 86323. The minimum number of dogs to confirm this eye clinic is 75, and the exam cost for each dog is \$55.

Please note on your registration whether your dog has been exhibiting any aggressive behaviors, so we can ensure the safety of Dr. Mar. Feel free to contact Chino Valley Canine Training Club at [chinovalleycanine@gmail.com](mailto:chinovalleycanine@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



Rescue in the Desert: Cinnamon and Cider's Journey to Safety

Two dogs were recently discovered wandering in the desert off Vulture Mine Road, south of Wickenburg. Covered head to paw in cholla cactus spines, they were exhausted, hungry, and in need of help.

A kind passerby spotted them and stopped, offering water and food—which the dogs cautiously but gratefully accepted. Showing incredible patience, the rescuer spent hours carefully removing the painful cactus segments from their fur before bringing them to the Humane Society of Wickenburg for further care.



Upon arrival, our animal-care staff continued the painstaking work of removing tiny bristles from the dogs' faces, legs, and feet. Through it all, the two stayed calm and curious about the sudden kindness and care surrounding them. For perhaps the first time in a while, they enjoyed fresh water, real food, and the comfort of a warm, safe place to rest.

Before long, their playful spirits began to shine through. They started wagging their tails, chasing toys, and soaking up affection like puppies should. Newly named Cinnamon and Cider, the pair made new friends—both two-legged and four-legged—and thrived under our shelter's loving care.

Cinnamon and Cider are now in a committed forever home together where they can continue their journey of love, safety, and joy.

This is what we do here at the Humane Society of Wickenburg—enrich the lives of animals and enhance the lives of people by joining them in loving relationships. Cinnamon and Cider's story is just one example of how compassion, community, and care can transform lives.



Helping Pets. Helping People. Helping Our Community.

At Yavapai Humane Society, we believe no one should ever have to give up their pet just because life gets tough.

Our pets are family, and during hard times that love and comfort they bring can mean everything. That's why we've created programs designed to support people and

their pets when they need it most—because every pet deserves to feel safe, loved, and at home.

Life doesn't always go according to plan. Maybe there's been a job loss, an unexpected bill, or just one of those months where everything seems to happen at once. Our Community Pet Food Pantry is here to lend a hand when it's needed most.

We provide dog and cat food to community members who could use a little extra help keeping their furry friends fed. Every bag of food represents more than just a meal—it's reassurance for someone going through a tough time and a way to keep pets where they belong: home with the people who love them.

Sometimes the challenge isn't food, it's medical care. When a beloved pet gets sick or injured, the cost of treatment can feel impossible. Our Second Chance Medical Program steps in to help pets get the care they need so families don't have to make heartbreaking decisions.

We've helped dogs with broken legs, cats fighting infections, and countless other pets who simply needed a little extra support. Each success story is a reminder that compassion and community can change both furry and human lives.

Then there are moments when life throws an unexpected curveball—a medical emergency, a sudden move, or a situation where someone needs to leave home temporarily to get safe or get help. In those mo-

ments, our Safety Net Program offers a lifeline.

Pets in the program stay with us in a safe, caring environment until their owners are ready to welcome them back home. It's a beautiful way to help people through hard times while protecting the bond that means so much to them.

These programs are the heart of what we do. At Yavapai Humane Society, we're more than just an animal shelter—we're a place where compassion meets action, where pets and people find understanding and hope. Whether it's providing food, medical care, or a safe haven during crisis, we're here to keep families together and strengthen the connection that makes our community so special.

And while we're proud to offer these programs, they're only possible because of the kindness and generosity of our animal-loving community. Every bit of support—whether it's time, supplies, or financial contributions—helps us continue this important work.

We may be the ones delivering the food, providing the care, and opening our doors, but it's our community that makes it all possible.

Together, we're helping pets, helping people, and helping our community—one paw, one heart, and one second chance at a time.

For more information about these programs, visit [yavapaihumane.org](http://yavapaihumane.org) or call 928-445-2666 x117.

**2026 DEADLINES**

<p><b>Prescott Dog</b> magazine</p> <p>DECEMBER 1ST FEBRUARY 1ST APRIL 1ST JUNE 1ST AUGUST 1ST OCTOBER 1ST</p>	<p><b>Flagstaff-Sedona Dog</b> magazine</p> <p>JANUARY 1ST MARCH 1ST MAY 1ST JULY 1ST SEPTEMBER 1ST NOVEMBER 1ST</p>
--	--

Call us at 928.445.4811 or email [info@reddogpublishing.net](mailto:info@reddogpublishing.net) for details.

RESCUE TALES

**This Spot Could Be Yours!**  
**Become an Article Sponsor**  
**Advertise Your Business and Save Lives**  
**Call 928.445.4811**







# Will Your Dog Be Naughty or Nice This Holiday Season?

*Tips and tricks on how to keep your dog on the nice list*

By Njeri Dean



Santa is making his list and checking it twice and wants to know which fur baby is naughty or nice.

Your family wants the holidays to go right, but sometimes it can go very wrong if your dog is not well behaved. You might think you have a nice dog during the holidays, but your dog turns out to be naughty instead.

Some possible problems that your dog may encounter during the holiday season are: meeting new people, encountering new smells, a sudden change in their daily routines, and encountering foreign objects—like wrapping paper and ornaments.

You don't have to call a dog whisperer to get your dog to behave, but it's great for your dog to be on their best behavior so that, when the festivities of the holiday are going on, your dog will show that they are disciplined and they know how to react to situations that they aren't used to.

Let's explore how our canine friends can be put on Santa's good side this holiday season so that everybody is happy and healthy—especially your dog.

Anyone can attest that meeting new people can be outright scary, and dogs feel the same way.

They might not get upset when seeing a person they've encountered many times, but it can be stressful if they're bombarded with a lot of new people all at once over the holiday.

The best way to resolve this is to not have your guests come in all at the same time. Try having your guests come in two at a time and let your dog smell your guests, so your dog knows the newcomers aren't a threat.

Letting your dog screen the people coming into their territory is

feel comfortable and combat loneliness.

Nobody likes to feel that everything around them is changing—especially dogs. Consistency is key when you are dealing with our canine friends; interrupting their daily schedule can stress and outright confuse your dog.

To lessen their confusion over the holidays, it's a great idea to have a quiet room for your dog with objects that your furry friend is familiar with.

The quiet room is a way for your dog to destress and recharge after meeting a lot of people and encountering situations that aren't routine. The calming area allows your dog to be inside a space that's normal, under control and not disruptive, while the area out-



and water during dinnertime, so your dog isn't motivated to beg for food or bother your guests while they're eating the holiday meal.

Dogs also need to be on their best behavior if there are places in your house where there are Christmas trees, menorahs, tinsel, or even picture frames around. Dogs encountering ornamental objects might break some and risk choking on the pieces, and nobody wants that.

Having your dog break or swallow sentimental items can also confuse or embarrass you, whether you're hosting or are the guest of someone else.

As long as you're careful and think ahead, you and your dog can coexist over the holidays and make memories that last a lifetime. Dogs are part of your family and deserve to share the experience of the holidays with you. Your dog—and you—can certainly be put on the nice list.

If you use proper training and good methods to keep your dog happy and healthy, Santa will take notice and smile. He's making his list and checking it twice, so make sure your dog is on the nice list this holiday season.



crucial because it gives them a sense of control about their environment and situation.

A dog's nose can pick up a variety of familiar and not so familiar smells, and those smells can make a dog feel very anxious, confused and scared. The best way to deal with overwhelming smells for dogs this holiday season is to use calming aids such as calming pheromone diffusers and calming music for dogs.

The pheromone diffuser can make your dog feel at ease with familiar smells that soothe your dog. Music for dogs can make them feel better because your dog is hearing sounds that make them

side may be chaotic and not ideal for your dog's daily routine.

A dog is a curious creature, and they may be curious enough to get into things they find interesting and intriguing. There may be new smells that your dog isn't accustomed to—especially at dinnertime.

To prevent a collision course of bad behavior from happening, it's best to put your dog in a crate with their own food





**PEGGY SUE:** A 6yo female blue & white American Bulldog mix. She greets everyone with a wagging tail & her gentle spirit, always ready for love & companionship. Loves walks and cuddles. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**ALICE:** A 1-year-old female mix with a big grin. She is sweet and gentle, but a bit shy. Very food motivated. Adopt two dogs for the price of one and bring a friend home with her! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**WANDA:** A 2-year-old female German Shepherd mix. A sweet dog with a heart full of love to give. Adores belly rubs, long walks, and being close to my favorite people. Loving and loyal lady. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**DAWN:** A 3-year-old female who weighs 27 pounds. A spunky little girl with a big personality. Very affectionate, but independent. Good with other dogs. Very treat motivated. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**THOR:** A 2-year-old male Great Pyrenees mix. He is a gentle giant who thinks he is a lapdog! He is playful, loves belly rubs and squeaky toys. Incredibly sweet, loyal, and loves cuddle. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**AMOS:** A charming sweet and silly 2yo male mixed breed, 32lbs. Couch Potato and Adventure Dog. Crate trained, potty trained, knows commands. Loves fetch, hiking, and long naps. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**SQUEAKY:** 3yo male Staffordshire mix whose former owner was allergic to dogs. Playful, loyal, affectionate, loves people. Also loves fetch & squeaky toys. Staff favorite. Humane Society of Sedona 927-282-4679



**SECURITY:** 2yo female Boxer. Affectionate, fully potty & crate trained. Knows basic commands. Food driven, playful, talented. Loves hiking, fetch, cuddling. Good with kids. No cats, small animals. High Country Humane 938-526-0742



**BUMBLE:** A 2yo male mixed breed. Big soft ears, big brown eyes & a slight underbite. He is happy, healthy, lovable, relaxed, friendly & quiet. Loves going outside, enjoys outdoor sniffing. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**ASH:** A 3yo male mixed breed, 47lbs. Lovable, heart-stealing personality. Housetrained, leash trained, great w/ other dogs. Lots of energy but a total cuddlebug. Adults only. High Country Humane/ TEXT ONLY 928-287-0377.



**EDWARD:** A 9yo mixed breed male. A charming older fellow looking for love and a kindly home for his golden years. He loves other dogs, and you can adopt two here for the price of one. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



**ANGELA:** A 3-year-old female mixed bred with a cool brindle coat. She is affectionate, sweet, and very food motivated. Adopt a friend with her for the adoption price of one dog! High Country Humane 928-526-0742

(Dog adoptions cont'd on page 17)

*Airpark Animal Hospital*



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

# Catty Daze and Holidayze

By Shadow the Cat, as told to Kay Luckett



I am Shadow, and we cats feel the excitement coming in for the holidayze and the daze ahead. We are excited to be jolly and merry after being spooky and scary. Some of us were even dressed in costumes.

Even though we were cooperative, we want our humans to remember that we really don't like it. The constrictive, hot, itchy nature of being dressed up isn't comfy. We will join in with you, but please keep us in costumes only for short periods and photo shoots.

One year, we had a tree all decorated (without tinsel). Every time the electric garage-door opened, the tree would jiggle and shake. After watching it move, we had to jump up and check it out. That crashed the tree down to the floor. We had so much fun. Until the front door opened and our parents came in and discovered the mess, and us in it.

Ornaments were broken. There was much concern and hubbub about the glass being dangerous to us cats. Then Mom discovered that we may have eaten some of the greenery. She was upset and told us evergreens have harmful chemicals in the bark and sap. She said it could even leech into the tree's water supply if the tree was alive.

Mom said the tree water had to be changed every day. Then she put a screen over it so we couldn't drink it. It smelled so good, too.

Mom said that the oil on pine needles can actually puncture our digestive tract. If we swallowed the

whole needle, it could lodge into our intestines like a sewing needle. Mom really didn't like that. She said we could need surgery to take the pine needles out.

So there followed a huge deal while she opened our mouths to check for any sign of pine needles. She even sniffed our mouth to see if we smelled piney. I guess we were lucky, because we didn't even have time to nibble on them before being busted.

Then Mom dived into the whole tree area. She checked to see if the cords and lights were okay. She wanted to keep all of that away from us as much as possible. Some of us are known cord chewers.

Mom wants the ambiance to be lovely, but she knows that candles are super dangerous for all of us. She says that the flameless battery-operated candles are the best.

More craze ensued in the next several daze as our folks started investigative behaviors around the house. I swear that they inspected every darn thing associated with the holidayze. Here's what we told them.

Please keep us out of the way of guests and parties. Please put us in a safe, quiet place so we can stay calm.

Continue our non-holiday routine because you know we cats love rou-

tines and predictability. That means eating times and quiet times, and please remember to pet and snuggle us in spite of your stressful and chaotic vibes.

We like the foods we get for our regular meals but yes, if you over-treat us, we will pig out.

Holidayze can be dangerous days for us, and we want you to BEWARE of certain edibles. Mom even made a no-no list of the things

cats can't eat. She says they are VERY TOXIC, and her list included chocolate and candies, bones, avocados, and nuts and seeds. Then there is the stuff that humans like to put in stuffings—things like sugar, salt, fatty foods, garlic, onions, and mushrooms. Two-leggeds like this stuff, I'm told.

Then there are the pretty and tasty plants. Some are really bad for us if we eat them, but why wouldn't we taste them? They look tasty. But Mom says they are really toxic (that means BAD) and they can make us sick. We could even die.

Mom is always watching for the signs we ate some: diarrhea, drooling, vomiting. Even seizures. The less obvious, quiet signs are decreased activity, hiding, or any other odd things. Beyond our usual oddnesses.

Mom continued to search the house. Then she found out that

poinsettias can irritate us and shouldn't be within our reach. But is anything really out of our reach? We are cats, after all. Be warned: we can go everywhere, including to the top of the tree.

Mom ended up putting the poinsettias outside.

Mom told us that her house-search found toxic and deadly plants everywhere: amaryllis, azaleas, chrysanthemums, evergreens (she said that means the green tree), holly, juniper, ivy, mistletoe (sadly, yes). We should probably emphasize that holly and even lilies are dangerous and toxic to us. And it's so hard for us to resist taking just a nibble.

Then there's the fun of holiday toys and wrappings and nonesuch—especially the super-fun ribbons.

Yes, we can roll and play in gift wrappings under the careful watch of a loving adult. Yes, we also resist being picked up and put into another room for our own safety, but we'll get over it. We'll also come out alive and healthy, calm, and untraumatized.

We like our own space that's soothing, small, and quiet because that's where we feel safe. Pheromone diffusers and sprays are great helps to our tranquility, so we can do what we love to do the most—eat catnip and then catnap while your party goes on.

We wish all of you a happy, delicious, joyous season, and good nights with warm snuggles.

Meow.





**CROW:** A sleek & elegant 6mo black Scottish Fold mix; mysterious house panther, playful, curious, companionable & affectionate with an air of quiet elegance. A one-of-a-kind lady. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**THNEED:** A sweet orange female darling, about 3 months old. For further information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**GIRLIE:** A beautiful long-haired calico lady w/the most intense green eyes. Affectionate and loves to be brushed. She will curl up in your lap for cuddles. Her heart is pure gold. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



**OLAF:** A stunning silver-grey gentleman with golden eyes. Affectionate and kind. For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**SAMMY:** A lovely long-haired black-and-white female beauty with the most unique face. She's a quiet kitty—gentle, sweet, with a snuggly side. She is looking for a peaceful place to call her own. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



**PIGLET:** A special brown tabby female, 10 weeks old. Snuggly and affectionate. For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**HORTON:** A 2yo grey & white male who's handsome, playful, and looking for his person. Enjoys toys, attention, and hanging out with his favorite human. Curious, playful, and charming. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



**DEKKU:** Sweet & friendly female senior Tuxedo cat w/ a gentle heart & eyes. Loves quiet companionship and will happily curl up beside you. Easygoing, affectionate, with plenty of love to give. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**SILVER:** A sweet 3mo silver-grey lady with white trim, adorable and curious. Very playful and loveable, enjoys playing with other cats. She will come and cuddle in laps. Purrs all the time. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



**VIRGIL:** A 2-year-old orange and white male. Charming, talkative cat who loves to chat about his day. He adores human companionship and will follow you everywhere. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**ANASTASIA:** A beautiful 6-month-old tortoiseshell female with expressive golden eyes. For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**MIMZY:** A 9wo female cream darling. Mischievous little fluffball who thinks every day is playtime & loves to zoom like a tiny superhero, then will curl up for the sweetest snuggles. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



**SWATCH:** A 6-month-old female House Panther with green eyes. Sweet and lovely. For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**PURPLE:** A 3mo male; black with golden eyes and the biggest heart. He loves chasing sunbeams, purring in your lap, and turning everyday moments into adventures. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679

# High-Altitude Hounds: Uncovering Dog's Uncanny Splenic Contractions

By Solana Kline—Honorary four-legger and avid dog-rescue advocate

HIGH-ALTITUDE HOUNDS



*Pika just over the next rise*

There is frost this morning. It's July, but that late-October tang is in the air—that dry crisp that perks the pups and rustles the excitement for first snows and less haphazard sweating of summer.

Mickey's svelt pibble ears perk, his forehead scrunching into an infinite ripple of wrinkles. He holds his breath to focus his full attention on geolocating the pika over the next ridgeline. Betty, in true terrier fashion, is already hot on the trail and has morphed into her alter-ego: the little baby mountain goat, adeptly traversing the jagged and skittery granite shards, barely touching ground.

The chirps of pika and rock chucks have been the most irresistible for these hounds, and their warning calls echo across hill and dale in the high country. If you've never been privy to the screech of a pika, it is immense for their size—a high-pitched squeal unmistakable for any other animal.

Pika are in the rabbit family and are about the size of a softball. They live in and below the rocks and boulders between 8,000 and 13,000 feet in the Western United States. Adorable and fierce little buggers, they resemble an amalgam of bunny and mouse.

Much like the prairie dogs, they rise up on their squat hindquarters and scream out warning calls when they sense danger. From atop their talus perches, they can easily dart down into the strewn boulders for safety. The pups wear their bear bells to give the ground-dwellers far/fair warning. And, while I never condone dogs chasing wildlife, for the pups, this is the ultimate game of whack-a-mole, where the pika have the upper hand and truly seem to enjoy taunting the dogs, drawing them back and forth across the foreboding terrain.

As my four-legged packmates sprint effortlessly across the plant-bare, toothy mountainside, I take stock of my own relative weakness and inefficiency as a two-legger.

Here we are at 12,500 feet, and my breath is short and stunted—telling me to take 'er easy so that the miniscule amounts of oxygen can find their way into my blood. So, here I am, in slow motion while the furry wonders are leagues ahead on full charge.

What's going on here? I can't help but feel the lesser species, which of course, I already assumed...

Are the dogs really more adept and adapted physiologically to high altitude? The short answer is: sort of...

Extreme or sudden changes in altitude is difficult for all mammals, but with our varied physiologies, all species



*A pika doing what it does best*

have a different bag of tricks to deal with it. When us humans go tramping into higher altitudes we aren't use to, our body's immediate response is to breath faster and deeper in an attempt to bring more oxygen into our flailing humanoid systems. The more time we spend at altitude, our bodies respond by increasing red blood cell production—a complex process where the kidneys, having sensed less oxygen, produce EPO to signal our bone marrow to pump out more red blood cells that will transport more oxygen. And our muscles grow more capillaries (the tiny blood vessels that grow in tissue) for better oxygen delivery, and the amount of plasma in our blood decreases so that the hemoglobin (the protein that carts the oxygen around) can increase in our red blood cells.

And what about our canine companions? What super powers do they have that keep them in top-gear while we loll behind at tractor pace?

Like humans, dogs also experience an immediate increase in breathing and heart rate to try and pull in as much oxygen from the thin air as possible. They can experience altitude sickness, with similar symptoms to people—like headaches, lethargy, intestinal distress, and dehydration. Dogs adapt slowly over time to eventually be efficient at any altitude, the same way that we do. And, just like us, they produce extra red blood cells and EPO. The key difference lies in their spleen.

The spleen is a curious little organ living within the abdomen of humans and dogs—near the stomach for pups and near the heart for humans. It's charged with various tasks that keep our lymphatic and immune systems healthy, like filtering and storing blood, producing blood cells, and sifting out bacteria and viruses.



*Ancient bristlecones*



*Our first 13'er*

Fun fact: we humans don't actually need a spleen to survive, but it's the spleen that gives dogs an acute advantage over humans in high altitude adventures.



*Mingleberries high on pika*

Doggoes have a much more muscular spleen than humans. This increased muscularity allows it to store more blood and, with it, more red blood cells. With this muscularity comes the magical feature of the *splenic contraction*, wherein the spleen contracts while dogs are exercising or stressed. And with this contraction, the spleen releases the stores of fresh red

blood cells almost immediately when they are needed—like at high altitudes. This process is miraculous in that it serves as a self-transfusion of sorts, immediately boosting the blood's oxygen capacity, natural canine blood doping, wouldn't Lance Armstrong be jealous.

We crest the last false summit to find a peak marker surrounded by dozens of pika sirening the pups presence in all directions. We had just summited our first 13,000-foot mountain—an accident by all accounts, as we just rambled up a trail we happened upon while putting about... just another feral Saturday for the pack.

I attempt to wrangle the pack for the obligatory family photo, and we turn our backs to the wind, gingerly descending the steep hard-scrabble. The trail leads us through a grove of ancient Bristlecone Pines—the 2,000-year-old grandmothers, experts at adaptation to the high country, letting time and wind and sun shape their forms.

We weave in and out of their windswept bodies, basking in their grounded calm and stark beauty. We rest within them to catch our breath, letting our spleens recharge while admiring the pines' view and envying their processes of photosynthesis.

Until next time,  
Happy tails and happy trails!

**Editor's note:** Solana's original panoramic photos are breathtaking, and we wept when we had to crop them for this article. To see their—and her—original brilliance, please visit Solana's article under the "Current Edition" tab at the top of prescottdog.com.



*Obligatory family photo*



*The pack that squirrels together stays together*



*Bristlecone bathing*



**RUTHIE:** A beautiful black and tan female, 2yo. Funloving, adventurous w/a soft spot for snuggles. Potty & crate trained. Good with other dogs. No small animals. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



**BOXTER:** A fun and happy 2-year-old male set to zoom into your life. He weighs about 60 pounds. He is looking for active adopters who will give this sports car plenty of exercise. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**BRUNO:** A 7-year-old Chihuahua male. He is sweet as pie and happiest when he's your one and only. He has knee issues but is easily managed. A little TLC and he will thrive with you. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**CHACHA:** A beautiful female who may reach 45 pounds when grown. She's learning sit and leash skills. She is an energetic and trainable gal who would enjoy a fun doggy sibling. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**HIRO:** A handsome 1yo gentleman ready for adventures. Likely weigh over 60lbs. full grown & will thrive with attentive adopters. Active, would love to meet any potential doggie siblings. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



**BEAN:** Tiny, spunky, and full of love! 9wo Chihuahua/Shitzu Tzu puppy. He loves to play with toys, romp with his sibling, and then curl up for human cuddles. Yavapai Humane Trappers yavitrappers@gmail.com

(Dog adoptions cont'd on page 19)



**20 Year Anniversary**

- Eco Friendly
  - Socially Conscious
  - Environmentally Aware,
    - Healthy
- ...and just plain Fun.

**Pet Products and Pet Supplies**  
**928-567-5555**

Find us on   
[@goldenbonepetproducts](https://www.facebook.com/goldenbonepetproducts)

**GOLDEN BONE PET PRODUCTS**  
Healthy fun stuff for your pets

**COME IN AND SEE WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT!**  
3080 W. State Route 89A, Suite A • Sedona, AZ 86336  
[www.goldenbone4pets.com](http://www.goldenbone4pets.com)

# Top Places to Travel with Your Pets in 2026

By Stacey Wittig



Baughman Rock, Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania. Photo courtesy Alex Byers.

Grab the leash and load up the treats—2026 is shaping up to be a banner year for exploring with your furry co-pilot. From splash-worthy lakeshores to parade routes filled with wagging tails, these destinations prove that travel is better with a four-legged explorer by your side.

## Petoskey, Michigan

Set along Lake Michigan's breezy shoreline, Petoskey's pet-friendly beaches, eateries, and trails make it a top pick for canine travelers. You and your furry friend can dip your paws in the surf or stroll through the charming downtown filled with fresh air and friendly faces.

For a cozy stay, check in at The Highlands Resort, a real tail-wagger among Petoskey accommodations. With plush dog beds, shiny stainless-steel bowls, and a complimentary chew toy, this resort pampers your pooch as much as it spoils you. After a day of sniffing, splashing, and sightseeing, stretch

out together on the sand at Petoskey State Park—nothing says “good dog” like a Lake Michigan sunset.

## Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania earned its spot on the list for its nature-filled escapes and pet-friendly trails. It earns bonus points for all America250 festivals celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands region, part of the Appalachian Mountains, invites you and your adventure buddy to sniff out miles of hiking trails, waterfalls, and forest scents. Ohiopyle State Park alone boasts more than 20,000 acres of natural wonder. From there, a road trip to pet-friendly York, Pennsylvania, is in order. You'll experience the colonial town



Krewe des Chiens Mardi Gras parade in Lafayette, Louisiana. Courtesy photo.

where the signers hid out after the revolution was in full swing.

## Lafayette, Louisiana

Lafayette, Louisiana, named the Happiest City in America by The Wall Street Journal's MarketWatch.com, offers many happy places for your four-legged traveling companion, including parks for off-leash fun and socializing.

Check 'Walk in a Mardi Gras Parade' off your bucket list by registering you and your four-legged traveling companion in the Krewe des Chiens Mardi Gras parade. The parade rolls during the day on February 7, 2026, with dogs, strollers, families, and fun.

## Épernay, France

Raise a glass—and a paw—at the Champagne houses in Épernay, located in the sparkling heart of France's Champagne region.

This elegant town celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Avenue de Champagne as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and there's no better place for a scenic stroll with your furry globe-trotter. French hospitality shines here, with countless hotels and cafés rolling out the red carpet (and sometimes a water bowl) for visiting canines. Santé to that!



Strolling Maison de Venoge on Avenue de Champagne in Épernay. Photo by Stacey Wittig.

## Concord, California

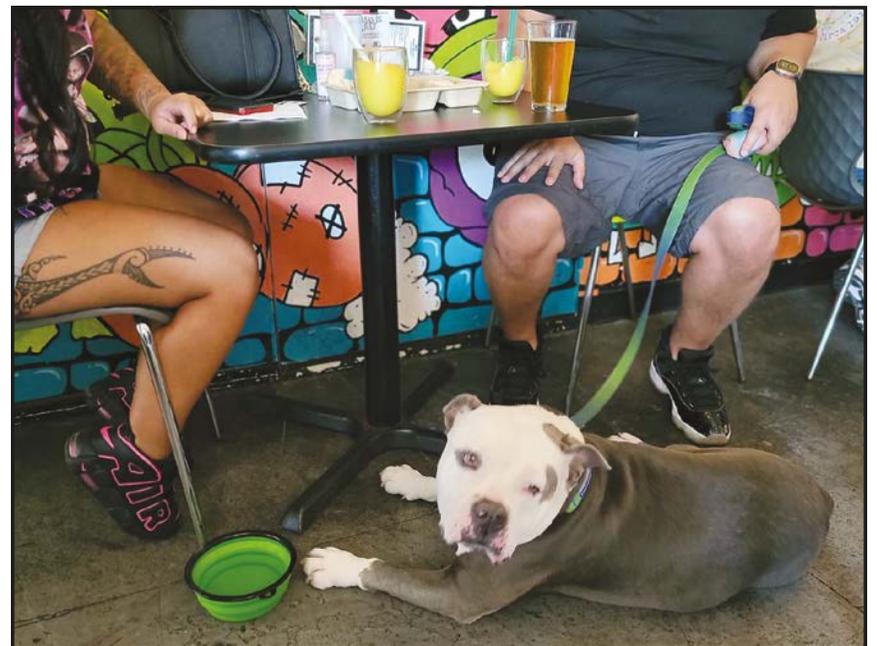
When the California sun calls, Concord answers with wag-worthy parks, trails, and patios galore. Whether you're tossing a ball at Baldwin Dog Park or sniffing around The Paw Patch, there's plenty of room for zoomies.

Pet-friendly hotels across town make it easy to rest those paws, and for a refreshing treat, stop at Epidemic Ales. This local craft brewery welcomes pups in the taproom, where you can sip a flight while your furry sidekick laps up the love. It's the perfect way to end a day of adventure—tails relaxed and spirits high.

Stacey Wittig is a travel writer and adventurer based near Flagstaff, Arizona, who loves discovering pet-friendly places to stay, play and explore. Find more adventures at [UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com](http://UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com). Inspiring wanderlust one pawprint at a time.



The dog days of summer 2026 ought to be spent on Lake Michigan. Photo courtesy Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau.



Enjoying Epidemic Ales in Concorde, California. Photo by Stacey Wittig.



**PEBBLES:** A 6-week-old female Australian Shepherd mix. She is the boss of all her brothers. Her personality is over the top, and she loves all the attention she can get. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



**SPOOKY:** A 3-year-old male Chihuahua. Weighs 7 pounds. A bit wary at first but warms up quickly/ Gets along with all the dogs at the sanctuary and good with cats. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



**DELILAH:** She is closer to a year old and has some large breed in her. She has gorgeous big brown eyes that totally melts your heart. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers@gmail.com



**SALLY:** Young female Cattle Dog, sweet & affectionate. Good w/ doggie doors. Likes to lie in the sunshine & zoomies overcome her!! Learning commands and is very smart. Yavapai Humane Trappers at yavitrappers 928-713-6789



**FINN:** A 9-year-old male Mastiff. Finn is a calm, gentle BIG dog who deserves equally BIG property to roam and protect. He is 150 pounds of good boy. Great with dogs and humans alike. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-713-6789



**FAITH:** 3yo Belgian Malinois. Loves attention, enjoys playtime, grateful for every belly rub. Looking for her forever home filled with love, patience, and squeaky toys. Yavapai Humane Trappers 928-713-6789



# WESTSIDE VETERINARY CLINIC

WHERE EVERYONE IS FAMILY

Monday - Friday 8am-6pm



Highland Dr W McConnell Dr

S Woodlands Village Blvd



Jenny Siess,  
DVM



Chelsea Rae  
Calhoun,  
DVM, CVA



Ariel Maltese,  
DVM



Stephanie  
Wolff,  
DVM, MS



Eric Windt,  
DVM

800 W. Highland Ave.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

928-779-0148

Surgery, exotics, dentistry, acupuncture,  
internal medicine, ultrasound,  
laser therapy, radiology and more!

[www.westsideveterinaryclinic.com](http://www.westsideveterinaryclinic.com)



# How to Feed Yourself and Your Pets This Holiday Season

By Stacey Dexter



The struggle is real: everywhere we turn these days, there are so many people anxiously trying to secure access to healthcare, affordable housing, and to have money left over to feed themselves.

Those are some of the most overwhelming stressors in our lives. Throw in the upcoming holiday season, and there's just a tsunami of uncertainty.

Feeding ourselves is a priority, but so is feeding our pets. No matter if one has a bird or a bunny, a cat or a rat, a dog or a reptile, they all need to be fed and hopefully, with the same quality food that we would want for our human family members.

With food insecurity in the United States at an all-time high (Harvard School of Public Health, October 2025), resources are needed more than ever...and not only for humans.

Our pets have become another mouth to feed and unfortunately, this has caused some to surrender their beloved companions

because they cannot afford to feed them (*The Economist*, July 2025).

Those facts are heartbreaking. This is where I believe that pet owners can support one another by offering resources or gift cards.

If you know someone in your neighborhood or town who could use a hand feeding their pet(s), a gift card to a local or an online pet shop would be appreciated.

You could also pick up some dog/cat food and donate it to a friend in need, to one of the many local food pantries in our area(s), or the humane society.

The best thing we can do is to get the information out to our fellow pet guardians that they are not alone, and their pets do not have to suffer. Many of us would jump at the chance to support a pet in need!

With the holidays approaching, now is the purrfect time to make a holiday stocking for a furry friend and a few for the local shelter. Include fun items like treats and chew toys, catnip and collars.

New or gently used leashes, doggie sweaters, and blankets go a long way—we all know how chilly our winter nights get here.

This holiday season, consider donating some of the things mentioned instead of buying more stuff for others that they really don't need. Please keep our



vulnerable furry friends in mind during the next few months and do what you can to keep animals fed and with their guardians. They are all a precious part of our community.

Here are a few local organizations that offer free food for humans and our pets. There IS support out there with many loving folks who would like nothing better than to help you and your fur babies.

Don't hesitate to reach out!

**For Pets**

**High Country Humane Society** Flagstaff  
[tinyurl.com/mvixmt8y](http://tinyurl.com/mvixmt8y)

**United Animal Friends – Community Pet Food Bank** Prescott  
[tinyurl.com/7pez92j4](http://tinyurl.com/7pez92j4)

**Yavapai Humane Society** Prescott  
 Free pet food, medical, foster placement and more.  
[tinyurl.com/27yzknum](http://tinyurl.com/27yzknum)

**For Pets & Humans**  
**Manzanita Outreach** Cottonwood  
[manzanitaoutreach.org](http://manzanitaoutreach.org)

**Old Town Mission** Cottonwood  
[oldtownmission.org](http://oldtownmission.org)

**Project Rising Hope** Cottonwood  
[projectrisinghope.org](http://projectrisinghope.org)

**The Sedona Community Center** Sedona  
 Serves Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek. Offers Meals on Wheels, community lunches, Breakfast Bundles, and free pet food.  
[tinyurl.com/mvaxjaxu](http://tinyurl.com/mvaxjaxu)

**Sedona Community Food Bank**  
[tinyurl.com/yc63w6xz](http://tinyurl.com/yc63w6xz)



# Make It Happen marketing

**We are frequently asked:  
"What type of agency is "Make it Happen?"**

We are a unique Boutique Agency that is dedicated to serving our collective passion; Saving homeless animals though helping Rescues and Shelters connect with their audience; and build their following.

Advertising, Social Media Marketing, Content and Collateral Creation, Event Planning, Fundraising, Public Affairs, Public Relations, Media Training, and beyond.

We have decades of proven success and are ready to serve you!



**Call us today!**

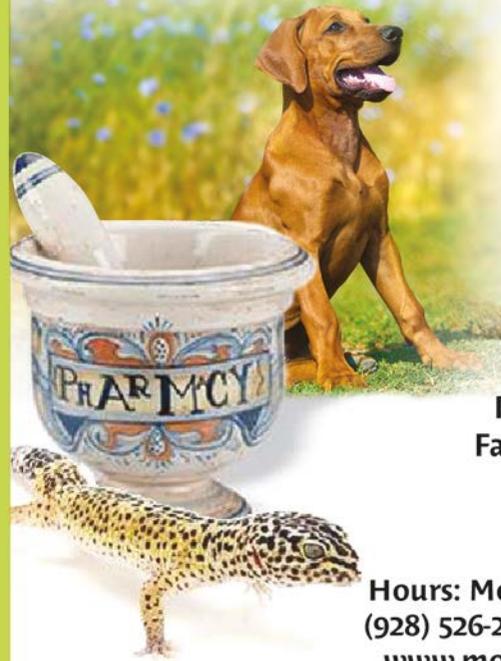
Free Consultations Available To ALL Non-Profits

**928-445-4811**

*Making Medicines Right for You!*

# Mortar & Pestle

Professional Compounding Pharmacy



Our customers come in all shapes and sizes ~ so do our delivery systems. We customize medicines to fit your needs.

People • Pets • Horses  
Farm and Exotic Animals

**NEW LOCATION!**

1928 N 2nd Street

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

(928) 526-2446 • Fax (928) 526-2245

[www.mortarpestleflagstaff.com](http://www.mortarpestleflagstaff.com)



## SUPPORT THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SEDONA THIS SEASON!



### COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE



*Saturday  
December 6th,*

*Tour the shelter,  
Meet the animals,  
Have a merry time!*



Humane Society of



**SEDONA**

SCAN ME



### GIVING TUESDAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

*Giving Tuesday donations fund  
our Emergency Medical Fund!*



### empty the shelters

WINTER ADOPTION EVENT!

December 1st-15th



stewart title

DEC 1ST-  
DEC 31ST

FOOD & TOY DRIVE

### PAWS for a CAUSE

# Celebration of Life: Bucky – The Dog Who Inspired My Healing Journey

By Jill Luculano



This is more than a celebration of Bucky's life. It's a celebration of mine as well. Bucky was the inspiration that led me to seek treatments that would change my life.

Bucky was my four-legged nephew, my sister's dog. In his early years, we only saw each other occasionally. Not only did we live farther away from each other, but I was allergic to him and all his canine friends. I think it was sad for both of us. I wanted desperately to pet and hug him, and I'm sure he would have liked a little more attention. I told him often that I wanted to kiss him on the head before I died. We did our best from afar, but we wanted more.

My husband and I are avid campers. Bucky, his sister, and his mom wanted to camp with us. How would we do this? I'd have trouble breathing if we were all too close together. The answer? Bucky's family would get their own camper and we'd travel together... separately. So, we began to camp together: Joe and me in our camper; and Bucky, his mom, and his sis in their camper. It was the perfect solution.



We traveled to lots of places together, and I was able to spend more time with him. It was great. There were still limitations, of course, and I had to keep my distance from him and his sister. When we went hiking and wanted to drive together, we had to make some adjustments.

On one trip, we all wanted to ride together to the Grand Canyon from our campsite, but Bucky and his family couldn't ride in front with us. So they rode way in the back of our enclosed truck bed, separated from us. We missed not talking and visiting along the way, but we made it work.

One day, I got some exciting news. My sister decided to buy a house right near us. I would finally be closer to her, and to my friend Bucky. I was elated. When we became neighbors, we developed a special bond. We were now geographically closer, but I still wanted to be physically closer to him. I told him again, "I'm gonna kiss your head before I die, Buckaboo."

It was then that I decided to undergo treatments for my allergies so I could keep my promise. I traveled to Phoenix regularly for two years to treat my many allergies. To me, the most important of all were my allergies to animals.

As we worked on the allergies, I tested the water by getting closer



tousled mane, and the most loving eyes. His expressions just melted my heart—especially his wide-eyed innocence when he was naughty. He had a little tuft of longer hair on the top of his head that was white against his darker coat, a funny little hairdo. So cute. And his personality just added to his cuteness.

He loved his walks. The excitement when he saw the leash sent him into his bucking-bronco routine. And then, he'd get so engrossed in his walk, it was hard to talk to him. If he could speak, I'm pretty sure he'd say "I can't talk to you right now. I have things to do and places to be."

Naturally, there were brief stops and lots of sniffing, and then right back on the mission, ears back, full steam ahead. We loved our walks together as we became closer.

He was a nervous fella. It made him seem shy, which was very endearing. He had a hard time with kids on bikes and some trucks—like FedEx and the Amazon guy. He was a mama's boy, and never far from the comfort of his beloved mom.

Speaking of his mom, she gave him the most wonderful life. He was a very lucky boy. She saved him at just four months old from what could have been a short, tough life for him. She nurtured him, as she did all her kiddos over the years, and he lived the best life he could.

On his last day, we spent some time together. He laid his head on my leg. I hugged and held him as we laid beside each other on the floor. I told him his Auntie loved him so, so much, and that I would miss him terribly. I told him I'd see him in heaven.

And, yes, I did get to kiss his head.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE: BUCKY

**CHECK OUT  
YAVAPAI BROADCASTING'S  
NEWEST PACK MEMBER!**

Now on 100.1 Flagstaff, 92.1 Prescott, 93.3 Verde Vly



**All stations streaming at [myradioplac.com](http://myradioplac.com)**

# VETERINARY EMERGENCY & SPECIALTY CENTER OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

WWW.NAZPETEMERGENCY.COM

We are your Pet's Emergency Headquarters for all issues.  
We are OPEN 24 HOURS EVERY WEEKEND, and MORE



*The best team. The best technology. The best medicine.  
Here, your pet will receive the best care there is.  
Because, sometimes, nothing less will do.*

**Northern Arizona's only CT Scanner directly at your fingertips.  
CT Scans are available all weekend long and holidays!**



**928.779.5522**  
**1110 E. Route 66, Suite 201**  
**Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

## HOURS

Fri 5p-12a • Sat & Sun 24 hrs  
Mon 12a-8a  
All Holidays - Open 24 hrs  
(Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day,  
Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Year's)