

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

Also Serving Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Jerome, & NAZ

February/March 2026
FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



Canine Cartographers

Get Your Licks on Route 66

Is It Too Cold for Your Pet?

Jeri Holton
Leaves Legacy

TO A GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS



Yavapai
Humane
Society

Yavapai Humane Society Personal Column



Single. Handsome. Ready to Run.

Hey there, Valentine. My name's Togo — I'm a 2-year-old Alaskan Husky mix, 46 pounds of good looks, energy, and irresistible charm. I'm bubbly, adventurous, and always down for a good time... especially if that time includes movement, exploration, and you.

I'm the kind of guy who believes dates should involve long walks, exciting new places, and a little heavy breathing (don't worry, it's from the exercise). Sitting on the couch all day? Not really my thing. But crashing next to you after a big adventure? Absolutely.

I'm curious, persistent, and always eager to see what's around the next corner. I'm looking for a partner who can keep up, laugh a lot, and isn't afraid to get a little muddy on the path to love. Bonus points if you like the outdoors and don't mind being followed everywhere by a very devoted admirer.

This Valentine's Day, skip the chocolates and fall for a guy who offers loyalty, laughter, and a lifetime of adventures. If you're ready for a relationship that keeps your heart (and your step count) racing, I might just be your perfect match.

XOXO,
Togo

Feeling Lucky?

Hello there, handsome (or beautiful) human. My name is Lulu, and I'm a 7-year-old domestic shorthair with a heart as golden as a pot at the end of the rainbow. I'm not into wild nights out anymore — I prefer cozy evenings, warm laps, and meaningful connections.

Quality time is my love language.

I believe the best relationships start with trust, patience, and a good scratch behind the ears. I'm past the kitten chaos phase of life and proud of it. I know who I am, I know what I want, and what I want is you... and a forever home to share.

This St. Patrick's Day, I'm feeling extra lucky and hoping my four-leaf clover leads me to someone who's looking for a loyal companion, a gentle soul, and a forever .

If you're ready to settle down with a classy lady who still knows how to have fun, I might just be your lucky charm.

Love,
Lulu



Available Animals



yavapaihumane.org



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.



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**PET WELLNESS
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LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE
EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE**



**3601 N Hwy 89, Chino Valley
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Flagstaff-Sedona Dog

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FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

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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

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NEVER MISS ANOTHER DOG!



Ruby, Our Cover Dog

Name: I'm Ruby. My siblings and I were known as The Gemstones, and I'm the most precious gem of them all.

Hometown: I spent most of my life in California, but I retired to Arizona almost four years ago.

Age: I'm fourteen and still livin' my best life.

Who took your photo: My Auntie Jill took my cover photo. She thinks I'm really photogenic.

Favorite brand of kibble: I'll eat anything that's put in front of me. I'm not picky.

Favorite people food: Anything and everything. If I had my way, I'd have gourmet people food every night.

Favorite toy: I'm not a big toy fan unless there's a treat buried inside.

Favorite outdoor activity: I was born to investigate. I could spend hours in the backyard looking for lizards and other critters. There always seems to be new and interesting sniffs.

Favorite indoor activity: My favorite thing to do indoors is lay on the couch with my mom and watch Project Runway on TV. We're both interested in fashion, and I love wearing cute clothes.

Favorite nap spot: I have many choices because my Mom spoils me with comfy dog beds in different locations. But my favorite spot is on the guest room bed under the sunny window. It's totally relaxing.

Fitness regimen: I love walks around the neighborhood, in the campground, or a leisurely stroll around the property.

Describe your perfect canine pal: My cousin Isabel is my best pal. We're the same age, and we love to hang out



on the couch together. She lives in California, and I always look forward to her visits.

Describe your perfect day: I like to sleep in with my mom then have breakfast. Sometimes we go for a hike, and if I get tired, I can ride in my backpack. I'm very curious, and I love investigating the backyard perimeter, plotting my escape to the outside world. What can I say, I'm a free spirit.



TUCKER'S 2026 BEACH VACATION

Tucker is spending some much needed time at the beach.
He will return with new stories in April.



TUCKER'S 2026 BEACH VACATION

Annie's Story: Her Beloved Monster

By Kay & Shadow Luckett

Last Fall, I opened my front door and there stood Annie. She was just getting ready to knock because she had just trekked over from Cottonwood to bring me a treasured gift which she lovingly held in her arms.

A non-cat lover might guess that it was a cat but it was definitely not a cat because a cat would not be serenely cuddled in anyone's arms standing in a strange hallway ready to knock some on a strange door.

What Annie brought to me was her copy of Caleb Carr's *My Beloved Monster*, a book which is essentially about his cat whom he said had rescued him. But that does bring up the eternal question about someone who says they refer to their pet as a rescue: Who rescued whom?

This is Annie's story.

I had never been around cats until I divorced in 2006 and rented a small log cabin with an outdoor shed where I lived in Idaho. The house I lived in was too small for both a washer and dryer, so the dryer was in that shed.

I saw a black and white tuxedo cat going in and out of a hole on the outside wall of the shed. I set up a bed for her inside the shed when

the season was changing and it started getting the Idaho very cold weather.

I didn't know if she belonged to anybody and thought she might need some food and water. What I didn't know was that when you feed a stray cat, that cat becomes yours. Or, to put it more accurately, you belong to the cat and become its forever home.

I came down with a serious case of bronchitis and was too weak to go in and out of the house to the shed. I decided to let the kitty come in only while I was sick. She decided otherwise.

She happily established herself as an indoor only cat.

At first I thought she was male and named her Mister Billings. When I learned he was a she, I renamed her Pat the Cat after a character on *Saturday Night Live*.

A neighbor later told me that Pat the Cat had lived with previous renters two years earlier.

When they moved, they left her outside to fend for herself in a trailer park behind the house.

She had tried to get back into the house several times before I rented



it over those two years, but had to settle for the shed.

Pat lived to be eighteen years old and taught me a lot about cats, mainly patience and acceptance. When Pat was about five, I adopted a seven-month-old kitten because I decided Pat needed a friend. Again, she thought otherwise.

Begrudgingly, she did accept Chi Chi but the two were never affectionate with each other, nor did they play together. I think Pat had had such a difficult life in that trailer park for the two years she was on her own that she didn't care for the idea of potential competition.

This brings my story almost up to date with Nala Sue, who is my current cat—not just a cat, but THE cat.

I had to have Pat and Chi Chi euthanized within months of each other in 2021. That was horribly painful so I decided I was never going to have another pet.

Three months later, I couldn't tolerate my empty house anymore and went to the humane society. There, they put an eight-month-old gray Tabby in my arms, and she immediately fell asleep. I thought, "Now I finally have a cuddler."

That's the last time she ever did anything like that.

They warned me that she might be a little bashful and withdrawn when I got her home. Those behaviors never happened.

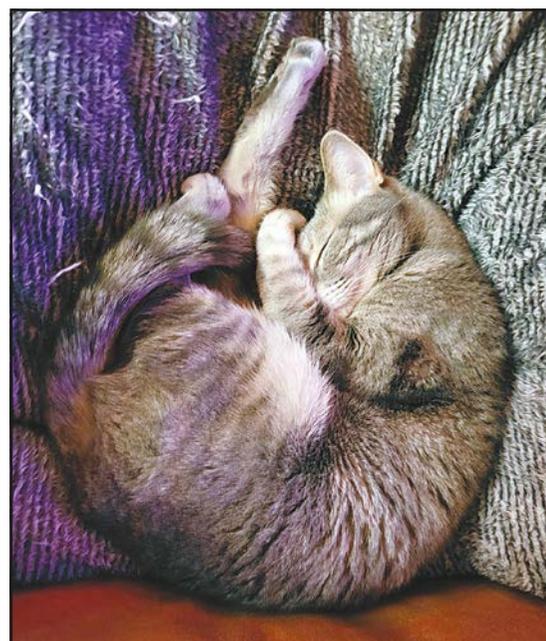
She immediately ran to the litter box and did what she needed to, then explored every facet of my house, including a very tall book case.

My first two cats never jumped on any surfaces where they weren't allowed, especially the kitchen and bathroom counters. So much for that with Nala. She took over our home and moved straight into the middle of my heart.

Nala Sue does not really like to be picked up, but when I bring her in from the backyard she lets me carry her back into the house without a problem. I take advantage of lovey-dove stuff then.

She likes to eat her nibbles throughout the day on my bathroom counter, which is supposed to be out of bounds. But Nala gets what Nala wants and this scenario goes on everyday, and everyday is a good day with Nala Sue.

Meow.



ANNIE'S STORY: HER BELOVED MONSTER



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 (click on the calendar event); 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 . 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 . 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 &
FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



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

<p>AREA DOG PARKS</p>	<p>FLAGSTAFF DOG PARKS Thorpe Park – 788 N Thorpe Road, Flagstaff Bushmaster Park – 3150 N Alta Vista Dr, Flagstaff</p>	<p>SEDONA DOG PARK April 1 thru Oct 1: 6am-8pm • Oct. 1 thru April 1: 7am- 7pm Turn north on Soldier's Pass Road off State Route 89A, Sedona.</p>	<p>COTTONWOOD DOG PARK AT RIVERFRONT PARK Dawn to Dusk Riverfront Park Drive & N 10th St, Cottonwood</p>
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GOLF

Tournament

Proceeds benefit the animals at HSS!

SAVE THE DATE!
DON'T MISS THE FUN!



SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH

The Oakcreek Country Club
Village of Oak Creek
690 Bell Rock Boulevard
Sedona, 86351



WWW.HUMANESOCIETYOFSEDONA.ORG/EVENTS



Nestled in the pines of Flagstaff, Arizona, High Country Humane has always believed that dogs thrive when they can stretch their legs, breathe fresh air, and connect with people. A few years ago, that belief inspired the launch of the High Country Hikers program, originally designed for trained shelter volunteers to take adoptable dogs out on local trails. While the program was beneficial from the start, everything changed a few months ago when it was opened to the public.

By welcoming anyone in the community to participate, High Country Humane transformed a simple enrichment program into a powerful bridge between shelter dogs and the people who care about them. The response was immediate and overwhelming. On several occasions, so many hikers arrived that the shelter ran out of dogs available to go on hikes.

Locals now show up to take shelter dogs on hikes throughout the Flagstaff area, often returning with photos, videos, and thoughtful notes about how their hiking partner behaved on the trail. These insights help staff better understand each dog outside the kennel environment, providing valuable information for potential adopters. Even more heartwarming, some hikers return not just with smiles, but with an intent to adopt. Others come back to foster the dog they bonded with on the trail, giving that animal a crucial break from shelter life.

The program has drawn people from well beyond Flagstaff, including visitors who drive up from Phoenix to participate. Many of these individuals care deeply about animals but are unable to adopt or foster long term. Others lack the time required for a regular volunteer commitment. High Country Hikers offers them a meaningful, flexible way to make a difference.

For the dogs, the impact is profound. Time outside the shelter allows them to decompress, explore new environments, and engage in natural behaviors, like sniffing. For dogs experiencing kennel stress or early signs of shelter breakdown, these outings can be life saving. A few hours on the trail can reset a dog's emotional



state, making them calmer, happier, and more adoptable.

Most of all, High Country Hikers has strengthened the bond between High Country Humane and the community it serves. It reminds us that helping shelter animals does not always require a long-term commitment. Sometimes, all it takes is a leash, a trail, and a shared adventure.

To learn more about the High Country Hikers program or to sign up, please visit: highcountryhumane.org/high-country-hikers.



Did you know that United Animal Friends® (UAF) can save you hundreds of dollars on dental services, spay/neuter services, and vaccines for your cat or dog? And even better, the money you spend at the UAF Snip n' Go™ Clinic helps animals in need.

Here's what one happy customer had to say on Nextdoor: "Took our Jack Russell Terrier in for a dental cleaning. Ended up having to get a few teeth and a growth pulled. Staff kept me informed all the way.

Noodles is back home and recovering. Saved a ton of money compared to the commercial pet dental places (at least 50% to 75%). Thank you, United Animal Friends for providing such great service!"

When you use the UAF Snip n' Go Clinic, you can rest assured that your pet is in great hands, and the revenue from the clinic goes right back into supporting our programs and services, including:

- Our Foster/Adopt Program, which rescues homeless cats and dogs, prepares them for adoption (including spay/neuter, microchipping, and any necessary veterinary care) and finds them loving homes
- Our Emergency Medical Program, which helps pay veter-



inary bills for critically ill and injured pets in low-income households

- Our Community Pet Food Bank, which provides free nutritious food for pets in low-income households
- Our Spay/Neuter Certificate Program, which provides low-cost spay and neuter for pets in low-income households
- Our Community (Feral) Cat Program, which alters free-roaming cats at no charge

Speaking of the Community (Feral) Cat Program, here's another testimonial from a happy client: "Thank you SO much to United Animal Friends for sponsoring the surgeries for feral cats. My husband and I have been able to get ten feral cats sterilized through their program so far. We have a few more drifters that we hope to trap this year and get their surgeries done through UAF as well. Our TNR project would not have been possible without the sponsorship of UAF!"

UAF's Snip n' Go clinic is the double-whammy of wins. You win when you save money, and homeless animals and community pets win from your business that supports our programs. For more information, or to make an appointment, please visit unitedanimalfriends.org/spay-and-neuter-clinic.

To make a tax-deductible donation to any of our programs, text "UAF" to 53-555, visit unitedanimalfriends.org/donate, or mail a check to PO Box 11133, Prescott, AZ 86304. Expecting a tax return?

Treat your refund as a chance to support animals in need. Many donors find it a meaningful way to use an unexpected return. Or, if you're 70.5 or older, giving directly from your IRA can help you avoid taxes on your required distribution. Saving lives is a great way to start the new year.



A "Must Stop" for Rocky Point Tourists & Dog Lovers. Coming soon, a sister location in Peoria.

Just eight miles north of Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, Barb's Dog Rescue is a beacon of hope and compassion for Sonora's most innocent and vulnerable—its street dogs. Founded in 2001 by our hero Barbara Mumaugh, the rescue was born from her deep concern over the plight of the homeless dogs in Rocky Point.

Barb's is a shelter with heart, and history. Originally a modest operation with just a handful of dogs, the rescue has grown into a sprawling sanctuary spanning several acres. Today, it's home to nearly 400 dogs, where they receive veterinary care to heal their broken bodies, vaccinations, sterilization, and socialization in a group living setting—and, most importantly, lots and lots of love. Our dogs are smart and charming—characteristics essential to their survival on the streets. Just ask our adopters: they'll tell you that their Mexi rescues are the best dogs ever.

Stop by and receive a healthy dose of Dog Love. BDR is open every day from 10am-4pm. We invite visitors to come and mingle with our friendly furry family. A visit to the rescue is a delightful and therapeutic way to spend part of your RP vacation.

Include one of our dogs on your Vacation. Whether it's a short walk on the beach or a weekend getaway, we invite you to come by and take one of our dogs with you. Vacations are always better when there's a dog in tow, and we jump for joy when one leaves to enjoy a break from shelter life. If you're interested in taking a dog on an adventure, just stop by the rescue or email us at barbsdogrescue@gmail.com, and we'll give you all the details on our vacation program.

Donate needed goods. Consider making a food donation (wet or dry, poultry or seafood based food), or anything dog-related. We always need toys, beds, towels, sheets, treats, leashes, harnesses, cleaning supplies, etc. You can drop off donations anytime.



Come fall in LOVE. We promise, you'll find the dog of your dreams at Barb's Dog Rescue. From extra large to teeny tiny, from young and spunky to older and lazy, we'll help you find your perfect match. We'll also provide you with all the documents necessary to bring your new family member over the border, and into your cozy home. So come adopt a BDR Dog.

A Lasting Legacy. Barb's work left an indelible mark on Rocky Point. Since her passing in 2023, our incredible team continues her work and her mission, expanding outreach and strengthening community ties to fight the stray dog crisis. You'll find BDR in Arizona too, coming in 2026. Our sister location in Peoria will be the happiest adoption center you've ever seen, complete with expansive yards for playing, five-star accommodations, a huge in-ground swimming pool, a full-service grooming salon, and of course, a thrift store, packed solid with all the things you didn't know you needed.

Barb's Dog Rescue is a 501(c)3 AZ non-profit organization. Have a look at our website at barbsdogrescue.org to learn more about our work, and see our dogs who are waiting for their turn to be a beloved, household pet.



Joy for Coy

Dumped. Starved. Scared. Left for dead. That's how Coy Boy's journey began. He was found as a stray, merely skin and bones, fighting for his life. Despite the trauma he had been through, the light in his eyes shone brightly when he wandered up to his finder, and she knew he was begging to be saved.

Coy Boy was rescued by Concho Animal Advocates before being transferred to us at the Humane Society of Sedona. When he arrived, we knew he had a long road ahead.

He was severely underweight, and while he was genuinely a happy guy, timidity and fear lingered within him—and who could blame him? He jumped at the slightest sound and cowered in response to any sudden movements. We can't imagine all he had been through and how long he had been wandering alone, fighting to survive.

Slowly but surely, Coy became healthy. He started to gain weight, learned how to walk on leash, and began trusting the staff and volunteers who cared for him. He loved to play with other dogs, and he seemed to feel safest with a friend.

Weeks went by, and this darling boy continued to be overlooked until, one day, fate intervened. Little did we know there was a couple in the area who were looking for a dog to become a part of their family—one who could help ease the isolation anxiety of their own beloved rescue, Sadie. They both saw Coy Boy on the same day and came to each other saying, "I think I found our dog!"

The couple had planned a trip to Florida and hopped on a plane right after they saw him. They checked our website multiple times a day during their vacation to see if Coy was still available. While he had plenty of meet and greets with other families, nothing clicked.

The minute the couple returned, they set up an appointment to meet Coy. It was as if it was meant to be. Despite his timidity meeting new people, he pulled hard on the leash to get to them—practically running into their open arms. Sadie joined the meet and greet too, and they played like old pals. You could say the rest is history.

Fate really did step in for this beautiful dog. Coy Boy could not have gone to a better family. They are experienced with rescue dogs and understand that the trauma Coy endured may take years to fully unravel. They have so much patience with him as he learns that food and toys



and love will never run out.

They allow Coy to meet people on his own terms and never force interactions. They do everything they can to create routines and opportunities for him to think things through and make successful choices. They do their best to always guide him to feel his big feelings, and

then to think them through instead of reacting. They even installed a patch of turf in the backyard where he loves to play with all his new toys and his sister.

The love, understanding, and acceptance without forced will. The deep and beautiful belief that Coy could overcome, and the space to let him do so. This is rescue.

View all of our adoptable animals (maybe even your soulmate) at humanesocietyofsedona.org/adopt.



When Margaret spotted the big thin-coated, sad-eyed, shivering pit-bull mix dog near her workplace, you could hear her sigh around the world. She is an avid dog rescuer for Blackhat (BH), but it had just taken her 18 months to get another pitty mix adopted (granted with some daunting challenges), and she was emotionally exhausted from that effort. But she couldn't turn her back on those beseeching eyes.



The dog's striking blue eyes and tentative tail wag were trying to assure Margaret that she was cute and friendly, and she proved to be easily handled once captured. Margaret looked at her resignedly and said, "There's no room in

the inn" and sighed again. Hence, she named her Mary after Jesus' mother. Christmas was right around the corner, and it was bitter cold on the reservation, which was no place for a thin-coated dog.

Mary, now Jasmine, had been a recent drop-off around the health clinic where Margaret worked. It was common to dump dogs that you cared about, but could no longer care for, in more populated areas like the health clinic. It was better than out in the middle of nowhere, and the ploy was that maybe someone would find the dog appealing and take them in.

Mary/Jasmine was no different, as she had clearly been someone's beloved pet. She was happy to be touched all over and gave you the cutest wiggle-butt when you scratched the right spots.

So, it began again, and Margaret located a hefty man to help lift the dog into her truck. She snuggled next to Margaret, knowing her luck was about to change. Margaret found a neighbor willing to keep her temporarily until a more permanent foster could be found.

Luckily for Mary/Jasmine, Chuck, a long time BH transporter and volunteer hero for the spay/neuter clinics across the reservation, said he could take her in a few weeks. So, Margaret worked with Mary/Jasmine on getting

comfortable in a vehicle and walking on a leash. And Chuck took over in two weeks as promised. Since he lives in the Phoenix area, the warmer weather is much more to Jasmine's liking, and she has settled in quickly.

Jasmine learned the ins and outs of suburban living. She seemed pleased to see other dogs, and just looked wide-eyed at a cat who was sitting on a wall, glaring, during one of their strolls.

She wants to keep Chuck in view as much as possible, and follows him around like a shadow. They have mutually agreed that a 60-lb. dog laying fully across his lap

Rescue Tales cont'd page 16



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Longtime Dog Trainer and 4-H Leader Jeri Holton Leaves Legacy in Community

By Heidi Dahms Foster

Dewey-Humboldt and the surrounding community lost a long-time dog lover and trainer when Jeri Holton lost her hard-fought battle with cancer on November 12.

Holton and her husband Ray Farber partnered for many years at the couple's Farbenholt Kennels in Dewey. They raised and trained German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois, and offered a wide range of dog training classes.

Born and raised in Vermont, Holton's father raised Coonhounds and Beagles. She became interested in herding because of the family's collies that helped with the sheep and cattle on their small dairy farm.

She also successfully showed horses, earning top awards at the national level. But was most interested in the dogs, and started showing Doberman Pinschers where, during the 70s, she had great success in the conformation ring and in obedience trials. She later switched breeds from Dobermans to German Shepherds.

She began working in Schutzhund, a German dog sport that tests a dog's tracking, obedience, and protection skills, with Argus, a shepherd she was able to import from Germany. With Argus, Holton earned an excellent rating in Schutzhund work, which included tracking, obedience and protection disciplines. The pair scored a 99.5 out of 100 in one tracking test.

By 1981, Holton was managing a 100-run kennel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She was an instructor at the school for dog trainers, accredited by the local community college, in which students learned all aspects of the training business. It was here that she and Farber met.

The two moved to Arizona in 1994, where Farber's



parents lived part time in the Prescott Valley area. They bought property in Dewey and created their kennel and training area.

Together, Jeri and Ray raised and trained German Shepherds Belgian Malinois, fostered and rescued a variety of dogs, and focused on obedience training for the general public. Holton was an

AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluator and a temperament evaluator, aiming for stable, well-rounded, happy dogs that can function in public places. She advocated for positive training methods and creating a close relationship between dog and owner.

One of Holton's proudest accomplishments was her more than 25 years of being a 4-H leader in the area. In



partnership with Molly Wisecarver of Mayer, she nurtured generations of kids who excelled in dog sports.

In 2020, four of her 4-H members, Elllyn Peterson of Dewey, Patricia

Disert of Prescott, Addie Kennedy of Dewey and Lilia Johnson of Dewey, won the top four championships at the Arizona 4-H State Dog Show. All were part of the Lonesome Valley Wranglers 4-H club.

During a memorial on November 22, community members including friends, former 4-H members, dog training students and more spoke of Jeri's strong faith in Jesus Christ, the difference and example she made in her 4-H students' lives, both in dog sports and life in general, the dog training.

She helped many people overcome behavior problems and build relationship with their dogs. Her husband Ray



spoke of the love the two shared and their long partnership in dogs.

All agreed that Jeri was a force to be reckoned with, and someone who will be sorely missed in the community.



SEBASTIAN: Handsome silver grey 6mo who loves calm spaces & gentle voices. Soft-hearted companion ready for a patient, loving home. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



DOVE: A beautiful two-year-old tuxedo girl with a gentle heart. She is a true gentle soul and sweet as can be, soaking up love and sharing her calm and affectionate nature with everyone she meets. High Country Humane 9280-526-0742



KAIRO: Elegant black 8mo semi-feral sweetheart who's slowly learning that people can be pretty great. Still shy & prefers quiet spaces, but every day he shows a little more trust. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



LARRY: 5yo male. Loyal lapcat who will curl up with you for hours. He's ready to give endless love, steady companionship, and soft purrs. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



LITTLE FOOT: 8mo brown tabby w/ lots of white. A bit shy, but warms up quickly. Loves attention once he knows you. Loves soft whispers and gentle pets. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



AVRIL: A sweet little 2-year-old black-and-white girl with the cutest face. She is just the right mix of cuddly and playful. Love attention, gentle pets, and being close to my favorite humans. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



FERN: Female Tuxedo, 8mo. Semi-feral who prefers observing rather than being center of attention. Appreciates a soft voice, a steady routine and a warm place to sleep. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



PUFFLES: An adorable long-haired brown tabby both adorable and sweet. She weighs just 5 pounds and likes attention. A bit shy at first, but when she settles in, she's a true lap cat. Verde Valley Humane 928-634-7387



SABRE: 8mo male brown tabby. Semi-feral, doesn't yet understand human affection; will coexist with a gentle routine. Will thrive with someone who is patient and doesn't expect instant cuddles. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



MARGARITA: A young female calico lady, medium-haired. For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society at 928-634-7387



OSCAR: A sweet 4-year-old spotted tabby charmer who truly loves people. Always ready to greet new friends with a happy hello and a hopeful look for some pets and affection. Loves to play. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



SHAE: A beautiful brown tabby female. She is silly and playful and hoping for a home of her own. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



ELLIE: An affectionate and lively 5-year-old tabby. She is friendly, loving, and outgoing - a true people cat. A playful spirit who loves toys and having fun with her people. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



HUGH: 7yo male chonker w/big heart. A true lovebug who adores people and is happiest when he's soaking up attention. Bonds deeply with his people. High Country Humane Society 928-526-074

CATS FOR ADOPTION



BRYCE: A lovable puppy with a big heart and an even bigger personality. Full of playful puppy energy, curious about the world and always ready for a cuddle when playtime is over. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



CHARLIE: 2yo male mixed breed. He has TONS of personality and loves to play with toys. Especially playing fetch & tug with my people. He is independent and confident. Good with other dogs. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



NUGGET: An irresistibly cute puppy w/ a big personality. Playful, energetic, always ready for a game, walk, adventure. Loves attention, happily soaks up cuddles, praise, and time with her people. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



JASPER: A handsome and charming 2yo mixed breed male. I can get startled easily, so I need a calm, patient home. Adopt me with one of my friends and only pay ONE adoption fee! High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



COWGIRL: A sweet 4-month-old female mixed breed. She will probably be about 40 pounds full grown. She is a sweet young pup with lots of energy and love to give. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



CLAIRE: 4yo mixed breed female, about 50 lbs. She is nervous when alone, so another dog for company is good. Very treat motivated. Adopt another dog for one adoption fee! High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



ROSE: A sweet 4-month-old female mixed breed. She will probably be about 40 pounds full grown. She is a sweet young pup with lots of energy and love to give. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



BENNY: Charming 2mo mixed breed male full of puppy energy, ready to learn. Training is up to his new family. Excited to master things like potty training, basic commands, and socializing. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



MAGGIE: A gentle/shy pup who wants nothing more than to feel loved. With a soft touch and a patient heart, she'll slowly come out of my shell. Her sweetness shines through in tender ways. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



BILLY: Charming 2mo mixed breed male full of puppy energy ready to learn. Training is up to his new family. Excited to master things like potty training, basic commands, socializing. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



THOR: 2yo Great Pyrenees mix, 107 lbs. of pure loving happiness w/ the heart of a puppy. Funny, smart, intelligent. Knows basic commands. Loves belly rubs and squeaky toys. Adoption fee is sponsored. Humane Society of Sedona 928-526-0742



LUNA: An adult female Heeler mix with amazing markings. She is true to her ancestry, smart and active. Walks well on a leash. Looking for adopters who will let her settle in at her own pace. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



ALPHA: 2yo mixed breed w/ startling blue eyes. Gentle & affectionate, smart & treat motivated. Gets along w/ other dogs. Would love to go home with Angela, w/only 1 adoption fee! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



BRUNO: 7yo male Chihuahua, future cuddle buddy. He's sweet as pie, and happiest when he's the star of the show (aka your one and only). Honestly? The only thing missing is YOU. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-738



DELTA: A young male German Shepherd. He is a gorgeous guy, energetic and smart. He is ready for adventures and will thrive in a household that provides plenty of exercise and attention. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



CHESTERFIELD: 6mo pup typical of the sturdy loyal Rez Dog. Devoted & energetic, needs an active family. Good with kids and other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society blackhathumanesociety.org or 928 607-6007



HIRO: A young male, sweet-natured and handsome. He is young and ready for adventure. He will likely be big at about 60 pounds full grown. He will thrive with attentive adopters. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



NYX: Female 8mo mix of smaller breeds. Soft glossy coat, and her gentle manner will make her a fun companion. She lives with dogs and cats. Blackhat Humane Society blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942



BOLT: Handsome male puppy, friendly and playful. He looks like he'll grow to around 30-35 lbs. If you are looking for a young, silly, and energetic companion, give us a call. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387.



LUIGI: Young male shorthair Chihuahua, 8lbs. Very friendly. Good with other dogs and cats. He loves to be close to his people. Blackhat Humane Society/foster at littlerita2@gmail.com or via text to 928-607-6007



LOVEYDOVEY: Adorable female heeler! Around 2 years old and 35 pounds. This girl is affectionate and good on leash. She'll make a great companion and walking/hiking partner. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



LILLY: Female Australian Shepherd/German Shepherd puppy. Follows her foster around everywhere. Good with dogs and cats. Blackhat Humane Society/foster Toby at 928-899-3942 4lvdch@gmail.com



CHESTNUT: 18mo charmer. One-of-a-kind personality. House-trained, vetted, healthy, happy pup. Blackhat Humane Society blackhathumanesociety.org or 928 899-3942



YONKA: A beautiful Australian Shepherd, approximately 5yo. Sweet, affectionate, and loves being around her people. She gets along well with other dogs, but absolutely no cats. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext. 7



JANGLE: Male Labrador/Cattle Dog puppy. Happy boy who just goes with the flow. Blackhat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or 928 899-3942.



MAGGIE: 7yo female Staffordshire Terrier. She greets every human like a long-lost friend. No cats. Chino Valley Animal Shelter (928) 636-4223 ext. 7

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DOGS FOR ADOPTION

When to Let Go

By Njeri Dean

When you get a pet, you know you're all in. From buying the supplies you need for them, spending time with them, and sharing a home with them, you know that your pet is a full-time commitment.

Pets are part of the family and know when they are loved and cared for. Obtaining a pet includes many benefits like improved health and unconditional love.

Sometimes we just need to let go of an animal. It's nothing that you did or didn't do. It's just a natural part of life that any living thing succumbs to.

Some people don't realize it, but they have plenty of experience letting go. For instance, if you were ever at a family or friend's side while they were passing away, you probably have experience saying goodbye and cherishing the remaining moments you had together.

Another life experience of letting go is when a parent or guardian realizes that their child is an adult, and they want to leave the nest to live their life. Letting go could also be interpreted as relinquishing material items so that a person can move on from the past and start a new chapter.

Most people with the experience of letting go will be ready to see their pet off to a better place. People who haven't had much experience letting go will have a particularly hard time moving on once their pet has perished.

It's difficult to say goodbye to an animal that's been not only a companion to you, but to the rest of the family. Knowing that your pet is ready to go can be sad, but making your pet prolong their life when you know they're suffering is cruel and downright wrong.

To some people's credit, they may not know their animal is suffering and assume that all is well. But there are signs that your constant companion is ready to be put down.

Warning signs that your animal needs to let go could range from fatigue and old age, loss of appetite, and illness. It's a fact of life. Everybody, no matter who they are, gets older.



Once you hit old age, your body can't do what it once did when it was younger. Less stamina, aching joints, and opting out of activities that exert a lot of physical activity are normal for anybody experiencing old age. Animals are no exception.

You might have brought home a curious and energetic puppy in the beginning of your pet ownership, but

fast forward nine or ten years down the road, and you're basically dealing with an elderly dog that can't keep up and relies more on you to keep their head above water.

Dogs that are dealing with old age and fatigue are less likely to interact with their human companions and not act like themselves at all.

Old age in a dog can also affect their sleeping habits. The inability to sleep or unstable prolonged sleep patterns can indicate that your dog needs to be put down.

Just like humans, animals need to feed their body to survive. Taking in nutrients makes animals healthy, active, and alert. An animal not eating could indicate that they are depressed or are suffering from an illness.

Animals are susceptible to illness throughout their lifetime. Some illnesses that could make an animal not eat or suppress their appetite would be infection, disease, and cancer.

Sometimes antibiotics and regular vet visits contribute to the recovery of an animal. It all depends on how fast the illness is treated, and how you remedy the illness as well.

Some people don't know this, but animals can feel depressed to the point where they lose interest in what makes them happy. Feelings of depression can lead to an animal harming themselves and eventually lead to death.

What causes an animal to be depressed? There are many factors. One factor may be the loss of a friend, owner, or companion. Another factor may be moving to a different environment that is unfamiliar and stressful to the animal.

The best way to combat depression in animals is to notice changes in their behavior, and to make time with your animal on a daily basis so your animal doesn't feel alone.

The inevitable will happen, and when that time comes you'll know that you did everything for your dog when it comes to old age and fatigue. A dog reaching its lifespan and beyond is a good sign that you loved and cared for your pet tremendously.

Letting go is a part of life. Although we don't want our beloved animals to go, sometimes moving on from them is the best medicine and a way to start a new chapter.

WHEN TO LET GO

(Rescue Tales cont'd from page 11)

on the couch can be modified to just her big, beautiful head in his lap. She sits for a treat and takes the goodies gently.

How can you not be captivated by those soulful trusting eyes? She was clearly loved and cared for, which is a puzzle when you understand her story. But she's not looking back, and is thrilled to have another shot at a good life.

She'll be a great addition to a loving home who appreciates this goofy endearing breed, and after she heals from her spay, you'll find her on Blackhat's Petfinder site.

Blackhat Humane Society is a 501c3 animal rescue charity dedicated to abandoned dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation.

You can find out more about our story on blackhathumanesociety.org, and we'd love to tell you about our fostering, adopting or volunteering opportunities. The rewards are immense, and the memories last a lifetime.



Merle's Story & the Power of Compassionate Collaboration

A four-year-old farm dog and proud alumni of the Humane Society of Wickenburg (HSW), Merle once found exactly what every rescue animal hopes for: a loving home, open land, and a person who adored him.

For years, he lived a steady, meaningful life, doing what farm dogs do best, keeping watch, enjoying routine, and offering quiet companionship.

Then life changed. Merle's owner was forced to move into assisted living. Through no fault of his own, Merle returned to HSW older, wiser, and still very much the same good dog.

What he brought back with him, however, was an old knee injury he'd been living with comfortably for four years.

At the Humane Society of Wickenburg, we don't define animals by limitations. We support them with solutions.

Recognizing Merle's needs, we leaned into what we do best: collaboration. Thanks to a partnership within the animal welfare community, a generous supporter—David from Pet Ortho Braces—stepped forward and custom made a knee brace specifically for Merle.

The result? A dog who moves confidently, comfortably, and happily, continuing to enjoy outdoor adventures with the support he deserves.

This is what above and beyond looks like. It's not just sheltering animals, it's advocating for them. It's finding creative, compassionate solutions instead of seeing obstacles. It's building strong relationships with veterinary professionals, businesses, and supporters who share the same belief. Every animal deserves a quality life, no matter the circumstance.

(Rescue Tales cont'd on page 17)

(Rescue Tales cont'd from page 16)

Merle wears his brace during outdoor outings, and he's doing amazing with it. He's not fragile. He's not broken. He's simply a dog who needed a little extra help and got it because of a community that refuses to give up on its animals.

Merle's story is one of resilience, compassion, and the extraordinary impact that collaboration can have when people come together for a common cause. For HSW, Merle isn't just another dog in care, he's proof that when a community rallies, lives are truly changed.

Brace-Positive FAQ for Adopters

Does Merle's knee brace limit his quality of life? Not at all. Merle has lived happily with this injury for years and thrives with the support of his custom brace.

When does he need to wear the brace? Merle wears his brace during outdoor activities to provide stability and comfort. Indoors, he relaxes just like any other dog.

Is this a high-maintenance medical need? No. The brace is easy to manage, and Merle is already accustomed to wearing it. Our team will provide guidance and support

to ensure a smooth transition to his forever home.

Is Merle still active and happy? Absolutely. He's confident, comfortable, and eager to enjoy life—just with a little extra support from his brace.

Merle's next chapter is waiting. Thanks to a community that shows up when it matters most, he's more than ready for it.

If you'd like to meet Merle in person, please visit him at the Humane Society of Wickenburg, located at 4000 Industrial Rd, Wickenburg, Arizona. As with all of our animals, availability can change quickly. To ensure Merle is still waiting for his forever home, please check our continuously updated website before visiting wickenburghumane.com/adoptable-dogs.

Merle represents everything Humane Society of Wickenburg stands for—compassion beyond circumstance, solutions over limitations, and a community that shows up when animals need it most. With the support of dedicated partners and generous collaborators, dogs like Merle don't just receive care, they receive opportunity. Sometimes, opportunity is all a great dog needs.

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CANINE CARTOGRAPHERS: How Dogs Navigate and Map Their Worlds

By Solana Kline honorary four-legger and lifelong dog rescue advocate

Trails hold the most immense wonder for us as humans, and for our four-leggers (canine and equine alike). For our pack, trails are our lifeblood, sanctity from a wacky world.

They present challenge and momentum, energizing our days with perspiration, respiration, peace, and beast. There's a very noticeable shift in pack energy, interest, and enthusiasm when we get on a trail, in particular a new trail. Betty and Mickey will bolt ahead for an entire run, accelerating into turns, using the trail's bermed sidewalks to slingshot them down the trail—especially Betty, who becomes the infamous Rocket Dog in these scenarios!

Trails are epic sites of opportunity to be wild animals amidst a civilized human world. On trails, we get to employ all of our senses and remember that we're a part of these delicate ecosystems of Mama Nature. The pups are sniffing harder, seeing further, and we are all constructing intricate mental maps of our location and the trail as we go.

Our pack is on trails every day and the dogs ALWAYS know exactly where we are, how they can shortcut to a further section of trail, and which way the truck is—it's astonishing!



The pack proving their superior magnetoreception

I have been completely fascinated with this. Even when we do loops instead of out and backs, or when we make a series of trail changes to get to our destination, it never fails—they know exactly where they are, where I am, and where the truck is.

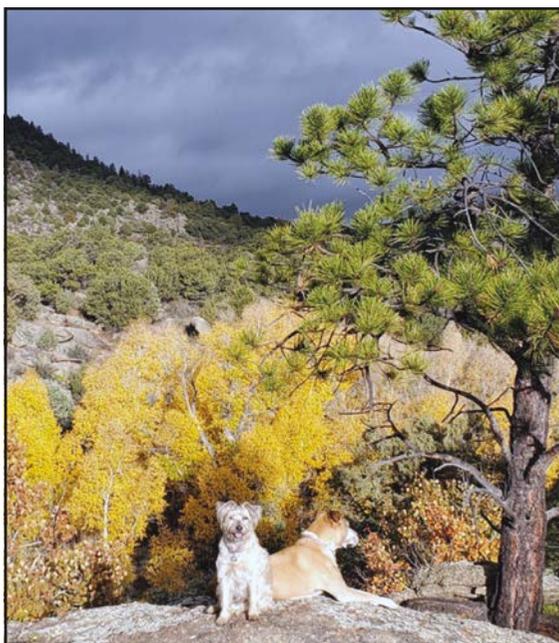
It's a rare occurrence that I lose my bearings on a trail or out in the wilderness. But on this particular day, the pups proved that their navigational systems were far superior to my own.

"This way guys, short cut!"

Betts and Micks stood fast on the trail and looked at me like I was full of it. The sun was strong this morning—in stark contrast to the new fall frost—and giving the pups' inquisitive perked ears a halo glow. They wouldn't budge.

We were out on a longer-than-usual trail run this morning, and I figured Mickey's knees and shoulders could do with a shortcut. I pressed on up the little hill to where I could see the trail again, running back down to the truck, decomposed granite soil shuffling around under my joggers. The cactus and Juniper and bunch grass radiated their happiness with yesterday's snow and today's sunshine.

I looked back for the dogs: nothing. They hadn't moved an inch and showed no inclination to do so. As I got up onto the single-track, I assured them this was the right move, that it was making our lives easier. After silent de-



Cutting trails

liberation, they simultaneously decided to follow me even though they firmly questioned my motives.

"Duly noted, you two, but you will be so excited ere in a minute when you see how much less work you have to do. Ha!"

Ten minutes later, however, we rounded the very same turn that we had previously been standing at when I decided to shortcut, and the hounds knew I was off my rocker. So, it was not a shortcut after all, quite the opposite, and the dogs knew it from the get-go.

It threw me for a loop, quite literally. I stood there, disoriented, wondering how in the world I could have done that? After 25-plus years navigating backcountry and trails.

As we jogged out to the truck—the correct way this time—I couldn't stop thinking about how the dogs knew. Their mental map of the trail was sharp and clear, even though we had only been on this trail once last Spring and going the opposite direction.

How do the pups know exactly where we are and where the trails will go? How are their trail memories and their mental maps so much more extensive and intensive than our own human ones?



Mickey relishing the Fall trails

The key seems to rest in specifically how dogs navigate using all of their senses, as opposed to we humans mainly relying on our sense of sight.

Dogs create mental maps of their surroundings and are incredibly accurate at homing. To navigate their space and place in the world, they use their senses of smell, hearing, and vision, along with two distinct mapping tools: path integration, and their very own internal magnetic compass, called magnetoreception!

Path integration is a form of mental mapping where pups can estimate how far and specifically where they are in relationship to their starting point. They do this by bringing together their mentally mapped distance and direction they've traveled since departure from their start point. This is based on their internal body movements in conjunction with their memory that help them orient in time and space. If this isn't fascinating enough, they combine path integration with magnetic sensing.

Many migratory animal species use the Earth's magnetic fields as maps for their long journeys as seasons change. This is called magnetoreception, which is where animals are able to sense the north-south poles of the earth based on their internal mechanisms and the Earth's energy. This navigational tool hasn't been studied much with non-migratory species (like dogs)



Beasting off piste

until the last couple of years. There is recent research into canine's curious ability to always find their way home—sometimes across massive space and time.

Dogs seem to geolocate themselves based on the north-south magnetic poles using an additional sensory function of an internal compass—so if they're running in the woods and are looking to find their way home or back to their start point, they'll interrupt their current path and do a north-south jog to reorient themselves within their mental maps in relation to their original start location.

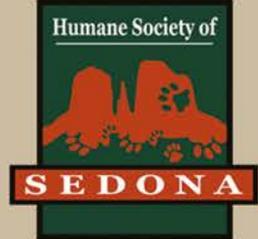
It's thought that humans also have/had this ability. But with our current focus on sight to navigate—and now with our reliance on all the GPS technologies—we may have lost our feel or knowing for magnetoreception.

All I know is that the pups' mapmaking and geolocating skills consistently prove much more accurate and effective than my own. And I will never cease to be amazed at their ability to shortcut trails or find our way home. As if they weren't magical enough, now they prove to be expert cartographers to boot.

Until next time, happy tails and happy trails!

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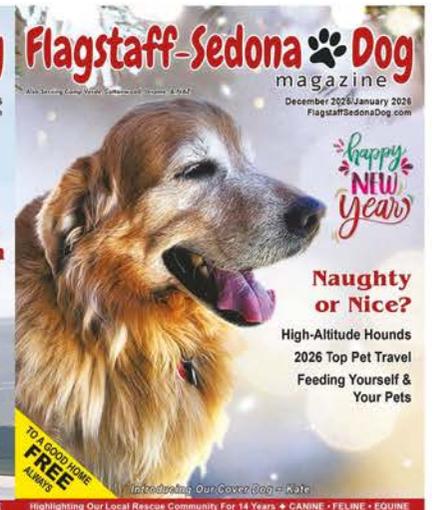
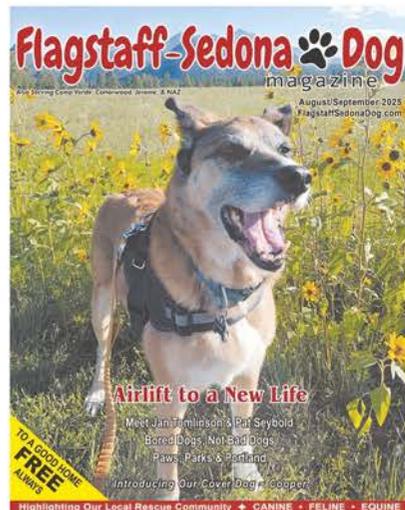
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Information on how to enter on page 5



If It's Too Cold for You, It's Probably Too Cold for Your Pet

By Loree M. Walden



Using a humidifier can help, but towel-drying or wiping them down with a dry shampoo/conditioner when you bring your pet inside—especially between their feet and their toes—can help prevent irritation.

Snow, ice, salt, and de-icing chemicals can build up between paw pads and cause pain if not removed. Plus, if they start licking their paws or fur after coming in, and they've come into contact with these chemicals, it means they are ingesting it directly in to their

probably needs one too. A properly fitting coat or sweater can make a world of difference—and honestly, it can be fun. Just ask Cassidy Roo. She has a closet full of winter coats, and she rocks every single one of them.

A quick stop at your local pet store can keep your dog warm and looking adorable.

Watch out for antifreeze and winter chemicals

Antifreeze is extremely toxic and deadly to pets, even in small amounts. Its sweet taste can attract animals. Always clean up spills immediately and be mindful around driveways, garages, and parking lots.

If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, contact your veterinarian immediately. This is an emergency.

Fuel their bodies

Pets burn extra calories trying to stay warm. Talk with your veterinarian about whether your pet may need a little more food during the winter months to help maintain body heat and energy.

Never leave your pet in a cold car

Cars don't protect pets from cold weather. In fact, they can quickly turn into freezers—sometimes



Winter in Northern Arizona can be beautiful, but it can also be incredibly harsh—especially for our animals.

When we step outside on a cold morning, we instinctively bundle up. We grab a coat, a hat, scarf and gloves, and protect ourselves from the elements. Our pets don't have that ability. They rely on us to make those choices for them.

Our animals are family. They trust us completely. They can't tell us they're cold, uncomfortable, or scared—so it's up to us to pay attention and look for the signs.

Here are a few important ways to help keep your pets safe, warm, and comfortable during the winter months.

Limit outdoor time and watch for signs of discomfort

Even pets with thicker coats (and those who are made for colder weather) can struggle when temperatures drop. Shivering, lifting paws, slowing down on walks, whining, or hesitation to go outside are all signs your pet may be too cold.

Shorter potty breaks and walks are much safer than extended time outdoors. Also, even if you think that going back and forth (with more but shorter walks) between the cold outside and the dry heat inside our homes will make it better, it doesn't. It can lead to itchy, flaky skin.

bodies.

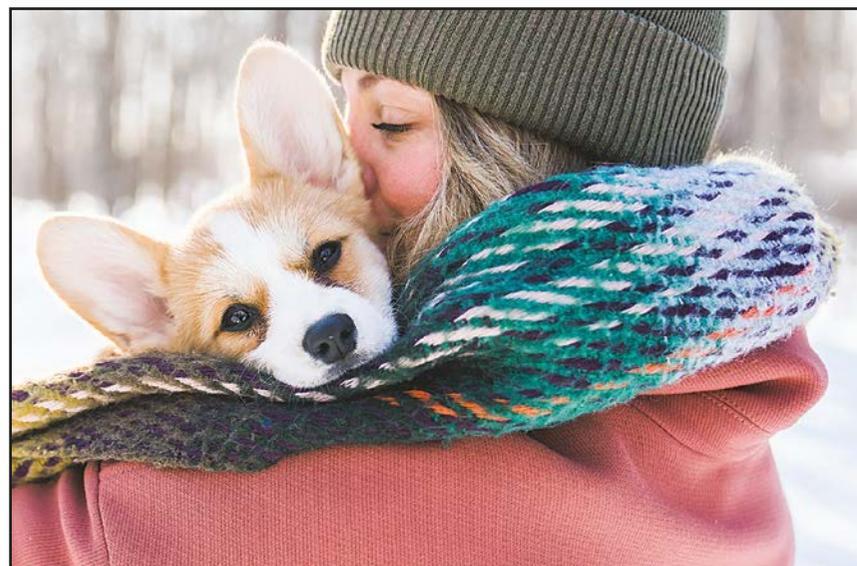
Cold-weather breeds still need protection

Yes, some breeds love the snow, but that doesn't mean they should be left outside. Every pet deserves a warm, dry, safe place to come inside. Cold tolerance does not mean they're immune to frostbite, hypothermia, or exhaustion.

Keep their coat—and add a little style

Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter. A longer coat helps keep body heat in. Long-haired dogs may benefit from a light trim to prevent ice balls and chemical buildup. Short-haired dogs, however, usually need extra help staying warm.

If you're reaching for a jacket before heading outside, your dog



within minutes—trapping cold air and putting pets at serious risk. If it's too cold for you to sit in a parked car, it's too cold for your pet.

Predators are a very real concern, so bring your pet inside

Living near the National Forest means we share our space with wildlife. Coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions and other predators are always looking for food, especially during winter. Leaving pets outside, particularly overnight, puts them in danger. Bringing them inside protects them from the cold and from becoming prey.

Cats need extra care, too

Cats are especially vulnerable in winter. Outdoor cats often look for warmth in dangerous places, such as inside car engines or under hoods. Always tap on your hood and check around your vehicle before starting it on cold mornings. Better yet, bring cats inside whenever possible—where they belong.

Taking a few extra minutes and paying attention to what our pets are telling us, without words, can prevent injury, illness, and heartbreak.

They give us unconditional love every single day. They depend on us. They belong inside. They deserve to be warm, safe, and loved.

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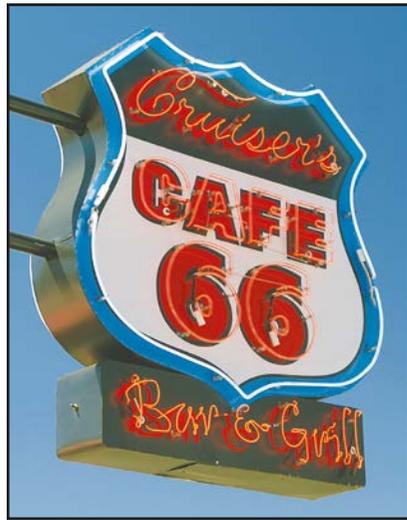
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Get Your Licks on Route 66

By Stacey Wittig



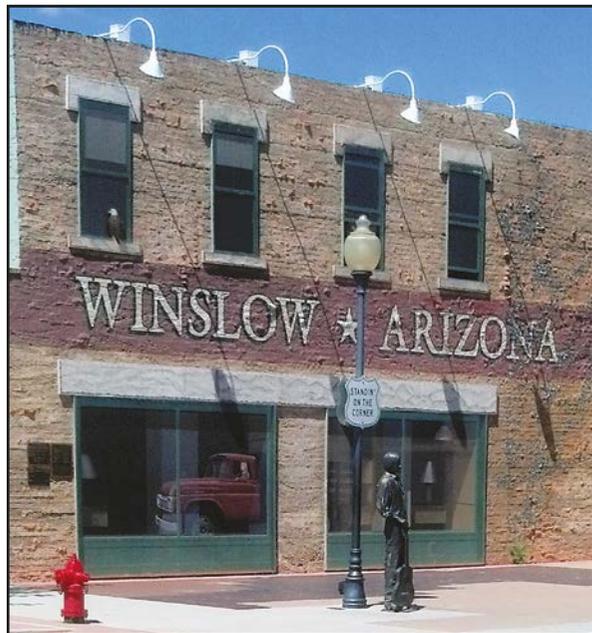
Enjoy Cruisers' dog-friendly outdoor patio in Williams. Photo by Stacey Wittig.

America's most famous road is officially blowing out the candles. Route 66 turns 100 this year, and the Mother Road's centennial is the perfect excuse to hit the highway with your favorite co-pilot—the one with four legs, a wagging tail, and an uncanny ability to sniff out the best pit stops.

From high-desert cities to pine-scented mountain towns, this dog-friendly stretch from Albuquerque to Seligman serves up classic Americana with plenty of places for paws to stretch.

Albuquerque, New Mexico: Big Skies, Bigger Sniffs

Start where Route 66 hums through the heart of Albuquerque. Old Town sidewalks are made for leisurely leash walks, and many patios welcome dogs with a water bowl and a smile.



Get your licks on Route 66 this year in Winslow. Photo by Stacey Wittig.

Stroll historic Central Avenue, pop into local shops, and soak up the retro neon vibes. When it's time to burn off energy, nearby trails and river paths offer room to roam. Pro tip: morning walks beat the heat and keep noses happy.

Gallup, New Mexico: Trading Posts and Trail Time

Rolling west, Gallup brings Native American culture, roadside charm, and wide-open views. Dogs are welcome companions as you browse trading posts and admire murals along Route 66.

Just outside town, red-rock trails invite a brisk hike—perfect for dogs who love a good adventure but don't need a full-day trek. Keep water handy and pause often. The desert rewards a slower pace.

Winslow, Arizona: Standin' on the Corner (with Your Dog)

Yes, that corner. Winslow's Route 66 icon is a fun photo stop, and leashed dogs are welcome to pose alongside you.

The town's compact layout makes it easy to explore on foot. Afterward, head toward open spaces where pups can decompress after the crowds.

Sunset here paints the sky in colors that stop even the most determined squirrel-chasers in their tracks.

Flagstaff, Arizona: Cool Pines and Crafty Patios

Climbing into the pines, Flagstaff is a canine favorite. Cooler temps, forested trails, and a lively downtown make it ideal for dogs who prefer sniffing pine needles to desert dust.

Many breweries and cafés welcome dogs on patios, and the nearby trails are tailor-made for afternoon walks.

This is a great overnight stop to recharge—for both paws and people.

Williams, Arizona: Rails, Retro, and Rambling Walks

Williams leans hard into Route 66 nostal-

gia, and dogs fit right in. The main drag is flat and walkable, lined with classic motels and shops.

Take a slow ramble, snap photos of vintage signs, and let your dog enjoy the parade of passing scents.

Early mornings are best for a quiet stroll before tour groups roll in.

Seligman, Arizona: Where the Spirit of 66 Lives

End in Seligman, the town credited with saving Route 66. It's quirky, colorful, and wonderfully dog-friendly.

Leashed pups are welcome to wander past eccentric storefronts and classic cars while you soak up centennial spirit. It's the kind of place where strangers smile, dogs get extra pats, and nobody's in a hurry.

Tail-Wagging Tips: Keep collapsible bowls handy, plan shade breaks, and check patio policies ahead of time.

Most of all, slow down. Route 66 is about the journey, and with your dog along for the ride, every stop is a good one.

With Route 66 celebrating its 100th anniversary, this is the year to roll down the windows, grab the leash, and finally take that road trip you've been talking about.

The stretch from Albuquerque to Seligman offers just the right mix of walkable towns, scenic pullouts, and dog-friendly stops that make traveling with your pup feel easy and fun.



Route 66 turns 100 this year. It's the perfect excuse to leash your dog and finally take that road trip you've been dreaming about. Photo courtesy Tim Mossholde via Unsplash.

Centennial celebrations won't last forever—but the memories you make cruising the Mother Road with your dog riding shotgun just might.

Stacey Wittig is a travel writer based near Flagstaff. Read more about the Route 66 Centennial at her website, Unstoppablestaceytravel.com.



Dog fest in Albuquerque. Photo courtesy of Mitch Tillison/Visit Albuquerque.



Tail-wagging good times in Flagstaff. Photo courtesy Discover Flagstaff.

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