

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

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June/July 2026

FlagstaffSedonaDog.com



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Canine Travel — San Antonio

Nature Is Nurture

Letting Love Find You

TO A GOOD HOME
FREE
ALWAYS

Introducing Our Cover Dog ~ Balderdash

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



Yavapai Humane Society

We're more than just adoptions...



yavapaihumane.org

YHS SECOND CHANCE MEDICAL PROGRAM

Our Second Chance Medical Program was created for those heartbreaking moments when a beloved pet is injured or critically ill, and their family is faced with the impossible — knowing their pet needs immediate care but not having the financial means to provide it.

Because of the generosity of our community, this lifesaving program steps in to provide urgent veterinary care for qualifying pet owners based on income. It gives pets the second chance they deserve and gives families something just as powerful — relief, hope, and the ability to keep the bond they cherish intact.



YHS SAFETY NET PROGRAM

Our Safety Net Program protects the bond between pets and the people who love them during life's most difficult moments. Whether facing financial hardship, hospitalization, domestic violence displacement, housing instability, or another temporary crisis, families shouldn't have to lose a beloved pet because of circumstances beyond their control.

We help families weather the storm for up to 30 days — giving them time to regain stability while keeping their pets safe and cared for. This compassionate program is made possible entirely through the generosity of our community.

YHS COMMUNITY PET FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Pet Food Pantry helps feed more than 60 families each month allowing their beloved pets to stay at home — right where they belong.

When times get tough, a simple bag of food can make the difference between staying together and facing an impossible decision.

This program is made possible through donations of dog and cat food from caring community members like you. The next time you're at the store, would you consider picking up an extra bag to help a neighbor in need?

Donations can be dropped off at our main campus, 1625 Sundog Ranch Road in Prescott.



For more information about these programs and all YHS provides to our community, visit our website yavapaihumane.org or call us at 928-445-2666.

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FLAGSTAFF-SEDONA DOG MAGAZINE

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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.



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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 receives:



- 1) 50 copies of Flagstaff Sedona Dog
- 2) A \$50. donation made to the rescue of your choice, in your name.
- 3) A personalized social media post congratulating your dog as the winner and an electronic copy of the printed cover



Deadline Dates - 1/1, 3/1, 5/1, 7/1, 9/1 and 11/1

All entries are judged for the edition submitted.
You can enter for EVERY edition! One entry per dog, per edition.

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NEVER MISS ANOTHER DOG!



Balderdash, Our Cover Dog

Name: Balderdash

Hometown: Mom and I live in Sedona, but we travel a LOT. I was born in Budapest, Hungary and have already been to 5 countries and 26 states.

Age: Two-and-a-half in hooman years, but the kind of handsome I possess is timeless.

Who took your photo: Laura Shelton—one of my absolute FAVORITE hoomans. She takes me on the best walks/hikes/runs. We are so in sync on our adventures that I'm pretty sure we can read each other's minds.

Favorite brand of kibble: I'm allergic to chicken, so anything that doesn't have chicken in it.

Favorite people food: Mom says I'm not supposed to eat people food, but bananas and popcorn and definitely peanut butter. Wait—is peanut butter even technically a people food?

Favorite toy: My rubber chicken. Mom calls it my emotional support chicken. She isn't wrong. My chicken is serotonin in toy form.

Favorite outdoor activity: Getting all the other dogs to chase me and try to take my stick. I find the BEST sticks.

Favorite indoor activity: Sleeping on mom's lap and hearing her tell me how perfect I am.

Favorite nap spot: Mom's lap.

Fitness regimen: This kind of perfect body doesn't just happen. The foundation is a solid sleep schedule—which is easy since mom is an exceptional napper and we get more than eight hours of rest a night. She also takes me on a mile walk every morning before it gets too hot. And then I play hard with all my friends at the dog park for an hour every evening when it starts to cool off. I'm not a scientist, but I've been told that being this beautiful also burns at least 300 calories a day.

Describe your perfect canine pal: I'm the George Clooney of canines and have a ton of doggie pals. For the most part, dogs are WAY better than hoomans. My favorite pals love to chase me, and play tug, and let me steal toys out of their mouth, and are happy to settle in for long rounds of bitey-face.

Describe your perfect day: Wake up next to the love of my love, my Mom. Treats and morning walk. Breakfast. Lap nap. Monitor all neighborhood activity from a soft, sunny spot. Bark as needed to assert my dominance over the neighborhood. Lap nap.

A trip out and about with Mom: running errands, or training class, or visiting friends. It doesn't really matter where, I am sure to get lots of attention and pets, and treats. Lap

nap. Evening romp at the dog park with all my friends. Dinner. Get all my toys out of the toy box and onto the couch—especially my rubber chicken. Snuggle in under the covers with Mom.



Tucker's Take *with* Keira

Two Hearts Can Race Together in the Night for Other Reasons....

Late morning stretch and a sudden realization I was slated to work with Keira on her first crack at writing a column for our readers.

"Hey," was all I said in a low-key greeting to Keira, not knowing if she was asleep while half under Mom's office chair.

She wasn't asleep by half; she immediately raised her head, bumping against the bottom of Mom's chair, and declared, "It was Pru, not me."

I sat, as is my habit when preparing to investigate an incident within the pack family, but... as a semi-retired sheriff with a deputy that I was looking directly at in that moment, I decided to return to the more pressing matter after just one inquiry.

"Mom and Dad know about Pru?"

Keira laid her head back down. "Pru was at the apology phase when I came back inside... Went from blank look, to denial, to excuses, to apology in record time."

Relieved that no further action was needed on my part, I laid down next to Mom's chair who was engaged at garden tasks outside. Before I could speak and bring up Keira's column, she began pouring out her heart. Now, when I use the phrase "pouring out", newer readers might not know exactly what that entails.

If Keira lays her head flat on the carpet, sighs, and quietly (nearly whispers) her discontent, you might as well settle in and get real comfortable because Keira will not only recount what is currently bothering her; she will list similar situations she has experienced, heard of, or dreamed about.

It's not that she's quite as bad as the blue burro in the Winnie the You Know Who series. It's the long delivery of unrelated information that can be trying to an old dog's soul.

I will spare you and just give you the Cliff Notes.

Pru had been teasing Keira about how Pru's column



A rare moment of peace for the sheriff

was in print (tinyurl.com/k9t595w5), and now she was famous, and many such jibes. Keira took it in stride at first but then she started to get nervous about not being good enough or being a "foolish Golden" in Pru's eyes. I admit that I took several short Grandpa naps during Keira's list of personal affronts and disappointments.

The remarkable thing about Keira is when you allow her to express what's milling around in her heart without much interruption, she resets as though the bluebird of happiness flew up her nose and nested in her brain. She goes from blue to beaming quicker than most two-leggeds I've known.

I was grateful for the timing, and while that elusive bird was fluffing her nest and Keira was a sunny, carefree Golden Irish lass again, it was time for me to get to work.

"How's your column coming along?"

Silence. I wasn't surprised. Keira took a minute to think while still looking in the opposite direction. She raised her head again and gave the bottom of the chair a good thump.

"What were the categories again Tuck?"

"Introduction, biographical, response to readers, recount a dream, pose a philosophical conundrum, observation of two-leggeds, interview someone, Dad doing something... uh... interesting shall we say, or a totally made up on-the-fly a' la Douglas Adams kind of story."

Keira stood part way up—enough to tilt the front of the chair enough to slide it back a half cur's length. She then slunk low and backwards with just enough twist at the end to turn the chair away from the desk's edge.

At that exact moment of dis-em-barking from the chair's clutches, and Keira standing tall and wagging, Mom paraded into the office and plopped down on the already perfectly positioned chair to change her shoes.

"Did you do that on purpose, Keira?" I asked.

"Do what exactly?"

"The chair. Moving the chair."

"I can't help it, the chair is shrinking, and I have a hard time getting out."

"The chair looks pretty much the same size as like forever. Maybe, it's something else, Keira?"

"That's what Pru said, but she's part trickster sometimes."

I couldn't resist probing a bit further. "Did Pru say any thing else about the possible shrinking chair?"

Keira sat and scratched behind her ear. "Dad interrupted Pru before she could say much more to me about getting caught under the chair, except Pru said maybe my middle name should be Girtha, and Dad told Pru to shut it for a minute and get outside.



Keira says, "I am interesting and beautiful"

Keira switched position for the other ear.

"What was that fifth category again Tuck?" she asked.

"Let's skip all those and begin with your introduction," I said. "It's the best way to start, and that's how Pru started."

Keira dug her curled toes into the carpet, gave a rapid side-to-side reset, and declared, "My name is Keira Red Bear, and I am also known as K-Bear, a sworn pack Deputy of Tucker Oso the Sheriff of our pack. I am of the heart of emerald grasses, but I am a desert highland lass now.

"Mom found me in a breeder's home as a young pup chosen and destined to continue the Golden line for that family," she continued. "But my pack Mom couldn't stop thinking of me, and her friend made Mom turn the car around, and she bought me and brought me to a new pack home. I am a proud member of a four with four, and two-on-two pack with Hazel, Tucker, Prudence, Mom and Dad.

"I dream of ancient green lands and run with ancestors of great size and might. When it's time to return to my family, I give a long mournful note of goodbye and promise to return."

I was at a loss for words while Keira took a hind-paw swipe at an imaginary itch out of nervousness while waiting for my response.

"Keira, I always wondered what that long cry was about."

"You've heard it out loud Tuck? I thought it was just in the dream. Well, that explains why Dad is always awake and sitting up. I thought he just came with me and was watching me play cause he's always awake and breathing fast like I am when I return. I like how he gives me a good chest rub as our heartbeats slow."

"I'm sure it's one of his favorite times," I said, not letting on how her occasional moaning midnight howls chill the whole family's spines.

"So did I do enough to make a column Tuck?"

"We're good for now," I said. "There's enough for Dad to pull something together."

Keira was getting anxious to see what Mom was up to after she had changed her shoes and left the office.

I dismissed Keira with a nod so she could go find Mom while I was left to realize I'm leaving my legacy in very interesting paws.

~With love and appreciation to all, Tucker Oso



Pru and Keira napping together

The Hairball Diaries: Summer Tips and Trix

By Shadow & Kay Luckett

Hello again. It's me, Shadow, Mama's black cat. I'm here to give you some ideas for summer fun.

My friends and I have been sharing some feline secrets, namely things we hope all cat parents will review. For instance, did you know that when you adopt a cat—or when a cat or kitten adopts you—that you are making a 10-to-20-year commitment with us in your care?

Did you also know that regardless of our age, you are adopting a toddler, even when we are seniors? We're glad to remind you of this as it adds to our health and happiness, along with our mutual longevity.

An important and little-known thing we want to remind you of is that we Do NOT like—nor do we need—to have a radio or TV on to entertain us when you leave (or anytime, really). Why? Because we like our wild animal instincts to be fed by the natural noises in the house and especially the more interesting ones from outside.

We are wild, independent creatures, especially in your absence, and extra noise in our ears masks the sounds we like to hear that keep us alert and



Shadow—that's me

safe. Also, we like to hide when certain sounds disturb or frighten us.

And oh, please stop those long emotional goodbyes when you leave. It comes out of your mouth as a love intention, but when it hits our ears, it is a load of your anxiety and guilt. That makes us wonder if you will really return. Yikes.

Just keep a calm routine when leaving. My mom says bye, grabs her stuff, and leaves. Upon returning, she comes in, says hi, and that's it. We know you're home, so please DO NOT wake us up to announce your exit or entrance.

You know that cats are psychic—or, better said, we're incredibly sensitive. We are constantly picking up visible and invisible messages, clues from our mysterious world. We can do this as we sleep our normal feline required hours of 16 to 20 hours a day.

Share summer breezes by leaving windows open, but with strong screens, so we're safe if we instinctively jump to chase a bird or lizard. Without a screen, we might forget that we're up two stories, and that's very high, especially for us cats. I ouch at the thought, so remember: screens protect us from ourselves, and although

we land on our feet that's not always so from tall heights, and our jaws can get hurt on impact too.

Yes, we are magic, but we still have physical bodies that must be protected, just like any human toddler.

By the way, as we felines observe your toddlers, we often see that they're similar to cats when it comes to being unaware of certain dangers. Every day, you should quickly scan the house for tight screens, curtains or blinds open enough for our views to keep boredom at bay, and plenty of water.

We require at least two water stations even if there's only one of us. Place daily water near our food but away from litter, and in another strategic place or two since we like to roam—our hangouts, the shower, and near our perching windows.

Never leave tubs or sinks full of water. Yes, we can swim, but most of us HATE being wet, and a tub presents an insidious danger as we can't climb out. Porcelain or steel tubs and sinks have slippery sides that aren't



Stash loves nature sounds with peace and quiet



Shavanne insists on fresh food and water

made for climbing, but for sliding. The combination of heavy wet fur, slippery sides, and panic with nowhere to dig our way out can mean a premature trip across the rainbow bridge.

Please don't leave day-old food out for us, including dry foods, as even that is stale to us. We thrive on fresh water and fresh food daily, just like humans. We don't want your left-over take-outs, as we appreciate a change of water and new foods each day. Left-out kibble is unappetizing to us.

We aren't self-regulating about portions, meaning we'll gorge on a full bowl of food, and then be hungry all day. Gorging and starving is unhealthy. Please invest in an automatic kibble feeder that has portions and timers built in. We like to eat when we're hungry, not when we are pigging out or starving. And, same as the water issue, please take care of us each day, so we can take care of you.

Best wishes and whiskers to all. Meow.



Bubbles is wild and independent



Sparky needs strong window screens

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 (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 Mail (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. Info & register: tinyurl.com/2wp6yxf4. Dark Sky Brewing Co., 103 W Birch Ave, Flagstaff. All ages. Relaxed yoga session w/wagging tails. All puppies 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

Store Hours: Tue-Sat 9-4. Donations accepted Wed-Sat 9-2.

Every Tue 25% OFF for vets & military. Every Wed is 25% OFF for Seniors (55 & over). 1601 Iron Springs Road, Prescott 928-445-5668

JUNE & JULY EVENTS

CHINO VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PARK EVENTS

For further info or to register online, visit cvequestrianpark.org

- Chino Valley Equestrian Park Driving Show. Saturday, June 6.
- Horses with Heart annual Brave Hearts Equestrian Event Exclusively for Veterans, Active Military & First Responders. Sat, June 13. Limited entries. Register at auctria.events/bravehearts or call 928-533-9178.
- Horses with Heart Annual Brave Hearts Hometown Heroes BBQ. Sat, June 13, 3p-7p at 2705 S Hwy. 89 in Chino Valley. Info: 928-533-9178 or horseswithheartaz.org/bravehearts-2026
- Western Dressage. Sun, June 28.

- Cowboy Challenge/EXCA Workshops and Competitions. Sat & Sun, July 18-19.
- FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW. July 25-26.

HERITAGE PARK ZOO

JUNE

- June 6,19,27 ZooLittles
- June 1- 5,8-12,15-19,22-26 ZooCamp
- June 13 Breakfast with the Lemurs
- June 30 Zoo by Moonlight

JULY

- July 6-10,13-17,20-24 ZooCamp
- July 18,25 ZooLittles
- July 11 Breakfast w/Tortoise & Friends
- July 25 Sip & Paint (Adult)
- July 29 Zoo by Moonlight



CALENDAR & RESCUE RESOURCES



Rescue Resources

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



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

AREA DOG PARKS	FLAGSTAFF DOG PARKS Thorpe Park – 788 N Thorpe Road, Flagstaff Bushmaster Park – 3150 N Alta Vista Dr, Flagstaff	SEDONA DOG PARK April 1 thru Oct 1: 6am-8pm • Oct. 1 thru April 1: 7am- 7pm Turn north on Soldier's Pass Road off State Route 89A, Sedona.	COTTONWOOD DOG PARK AT RIVERFRONT PARK Dawn to Dusk Riverfront Park Drive & N 10th St, Cottonwood
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The Gift of Loving More Than Once: Letting Love Find You Again

By Jennifer Leigh Baker

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

~Winnie the Pooh, by A.A. Milne

For many, after the loss of their animal companion, choosing not to adopt again can feel like the safest, most tender way to protect a heart that's been through so much.



Just like our human companions, animals who enter our lives bring something entirely their own. One may have been your shadow, another your comic relief, another your quiet presence through a difficult season. They are not interchangeable, and the bond we feel with them isn't either.

Sometimes, in the quiet space that follows loss, we begin to recognize just how much care and connection we carry, and why we felt called to rescue, adopt, and welcome them into our lives in the first place. That devotion doesn't disappear; it stays with us, woven into who we are, often finding its way into the world in ways we don't expect.

For some, that may one day include opening the heart again, not as a replacement, but as a continuation, where the love we've known begins to expand, reaching beyond what once was and into something new. For others, it may look like honoring that bond in different ways: through memory, connection, or simply carrying that love forward. There is no single path.

We've been given this gift to extend our devotion to animals and to each other, creating lives rooted in compassion and connection.

Finding Your Way Forward

If you find yourself saying, "I could never get another animal," you're not alone. That feeling often comes from a place of deep love and a desire to protect your heart from experiencing that kind of pain again.

Grief, whether for humans or animals, has no timeline. There's no expectation that you should feel differently than you do. What matters is giving yourself permission to be exactly where you are, while also gently allowing that, in time, something may begin to soften.

What feels like never right now may one day feel like maybe. You may find you're learning how to carry that connection in a new way.

It might begin in small, gentle ways: spending time with a friend's animal companion, supporting a local rescue, or even fostering. Even a quiet openness can make a difference—for an animal's life, and your own.

When the grief feels heavy, you don't have to carry it alone. Reaching out to someone who understands can create space for healing, at your own pace. Moving forward doesn't mean letting go; it means allowing the possibility that your heart, when it's ready, may open again.

Embracing a New Path

Perhaps one of the quieter gifts animals offer lies in the nature of their shorter lives. They don't just teach us how to love deeply but also show us that we can love deeply again. Maybe not in the same way or with the same story, but with a new bond that still carries meaning and can even help save lives.

In those moments, people often discover something surprising: the love is still there. Not only what they shared, but also the capacity for joy, connection, and even lightness again. It isn't a replacement, but a continuation.

Loving more than once is simply allowing that connection to keep moving through you, finding new relationships and memories. It's also about recognizing that your heart was never meant to love just once.

The joy, connection, and sense of purpose you may have thought were gone can open again in new ways, while also offering an animal a safe place to land, to be cared for, and to be truly loved.

And while there are so many animals waiting, hoping to be seen and chosen, this isn't about pressure or obligation. It's simply an invitation.

An opportunity to let the love you still carry become something living again in the world.

In that exchange, something quiet and powerful happens—healing begins on both sides.

THE GIFT OF LOVING MORE THAN ONCE

The Humane Society of Sedona's Secrets to Success

By Stacey Dexter

Happy 60th Anniversary to the Humane Society of Sedona, Arizona! This incredibly important milestone has a vast and dedicated history of community commitment which has put the shelter in line with the top three shelters in the United States.

Best Friends (42 years), North Shore Animal League America (82 years), and the ASPCA (160 years), are prestigious organizations to stand beside, and HSS history and the story of the people behind this success are so important. This article will highlight some of the significant milestones and stories of the loving volunteers who have made the HSS the success it is today.

The following information about the origins of HSS between 1954-2006 was generously shared with me by HSS volunteers Jeff and Deb Duffy. They have amassed an enormous amount of information—enough for a book. I was given permission to use and edit as needed for this article.

In 1954, New Yorkers Margret Mudgett and Dorthy Purnell relocated to the Village of Oak Creek and opened their shop, Peddlers Wagon. After seeing a dog thrown from a passing car and struck by another vehicle, they gently loaded the injured dog into their vehicle and took him to a local vet.

Once recovered, he was dubbed Mr. Brown. He became a fixture at the entrance to Peddlers Wagon, along with another canine adoptee, Buttons. They were the inspiration for what was to become Paw Prints, the first Humane Society of Sedona.

Mudgett and Purnell's home and business became respites for a series of lost and abandoned dogs, but the arrangement wasn't sustainable. Locals Ellen and Leon Verwilts volunteered to keep cats in their home on a temporary basis, and this loving and safe temporary situation lasted for more than seven years.

Bill Harrick, board member and local builder, indicated that funding was secured to build a small shelter, but the question was... where? A large parcel of land in West Sedona called Posse Grounds was finally selected. Then named Paw Prints, it continued with its primary mission of taking care of animals who needed help including pigs, donkeys, sheep, birds, turtles, and even a pet Coatimundi.

In the early years, veterinary services were provided by whichever local vet was available. However, in 1972, a veterinarian from California opened a practice off Coffee Pot Road and began working closely with Paw Prints. Dr. William McFadden, aka the Flying Vet of Northern Ar-



Vax Clinic with Dr. Barbour & Antonio Lopez, shelter manager



Dr. Audrey Yank

izona, routinely took his plane to remote areas to provide services. In 1973, he opened a state-of-the-art clinic on Posse Grounds Road. McFadden was invaluable in supporting the clinic with his expertise, and he will always be a part of the shelter's history.

Today, Dr. Randy Barbour, veterinarian and board president, volunteers his time to run the low-cost vaccination and microchip clinics. Dr. Audrey Yank has been a staff veterinarian since 2024; she also offers her expertise as a certified veterinary acupuncturist, and her assistants include a group of talented vet techs. The animals are caring and experienced hands.

In 1972, the project ground to a halt when the state land commissioner deemed the contract at Posse Grounds invalid. Cecil Lockhart-Smith, the first president of Paw Prints, contacted politicians for their help. Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater and Representative Sam Steiger weighed in, and their inter-

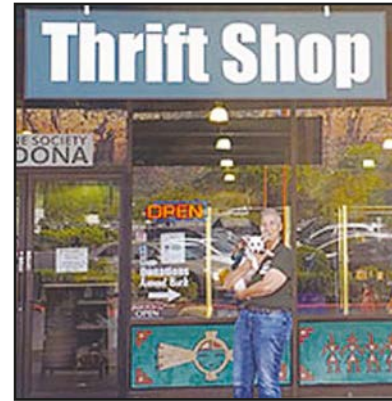
vention helped to resolve the issue and continued construction.

In 1974, the shelter manager, Lena Dicky, was working hard to keep the needs of the growing shelter in the public eye. With Sedona's annual St. Patrick's Day parade quickly approaching, she decided to enter Paw Prints into the parade with the ingenious idea of dressing her two Great Danes as warrior horses and pull her in a chariot. (If only there was a picture.) Their presence induced laughter all along the parade route and had a memorable effect—just what Dickey was hoping to achieve. Dicky was the manager of Paw Prints for 25 years.

In 1983, a parcel of land on Shelby Road was purchased for a new shelter. The new building was approx-

imately 5,000 square feet. The adjacent lot was purchased in 1991, and it's been an invaluable asset as a dog run. Moving into the new facility briefly satisfied the need for more space but it also brought additional demands: more room meant more animals which meant more staff, surgeries, food... and money.

In 1994, a group of tenacious and resolute women opened the first thrift store in the Village of Oak Creek to provide revenue for HSS. The original Paw Prints Thrift Store, now managed by Reese Rose, continues to supply a significant amount of funds to sustain the needs of the shelter.



Paws West, located in West Sedona, opened its doors in 2008. It's currently managed by Angela Henze, who oversees the enormous amounts of generous donations from estate sales held throughout Sedona.

In 1996, though the new shelter was a vast improvement, it needed to expand to meet the ever-growing population. Professional designers of humane society shelters were engaged to produce a feasibility study and propose an expansion project to create a state-of-the-art facility.

In 2006, the three-million-dollar expansion improved the space to over 14,000 square feet, which includes updated animal housing for dogs and cats, a larger dog run, and improved play areas. A commercial washer and dryer are now adjacent to the staff break room, and a quarantine area and surgical room were added to aid more animals in need.

Two Important Notes: HSS has earned the distinction of being a No-Kill Shelter. Only in terminal circumstances is euthanasia permissible. HSS is also a Fear-Free Certified Shelter. This national program started in veterinary hospitals and all staff/volunteers must be trained in their methods. The program empowers people to apply key strategies and techniques designed to reduce the negative emotional states commonly experienced by shelter animals.

Leadership

The executive director of the HSS, Jennifer Brehler, has been involved with animal sheltering for thirty years and was formerly the executive director for the San Diego Humane Society. She is also a United States Army veteran whose leadership skills and cre-



Jennifer Brehler, executive director



St. Paddy's Parade 2026



St. Patrick's Day Parade 1999

ative ideas to grow financial support for HSS has taken it in a positive and expansive direction. Her ability to interact positively with the community, encouraging donations and support, has been a plus since she came onboard in 2018.

Brehler also credits the longevity of the shelter to the generosity of its volunteers from across the Verde Valley. These volunteers are the unpaid folks who have chosen to spend their extra time aiding unfortunate animals, making the humane society a priority in their lives.

The Volunteer Coordinator

Deborah Haynes began as a volunteer, and within a few years she became a staff member. Haynes oversees almost 100 volunteers (and more are always welcome). With the shelter able to house thirty dogs and thirty cats, every available hand is always needed. HSS has a strong volunteer foster program to balance out the overflow and will work with your schedule whether you're a student, busy parent, snowbird, or retiree.



Deborah Haynes, volunteer coordinator

Haynes says, "First and foremost, for any of our volunteers, I want them to find joy in volunteering. If the volunteers are fulfilled in their role of supporting us, then that transfers to the organization. Retainment happens in the first step, recruitment. I'm a bit of a matchmaker, acknowledging how someone may want to volunteer, guiding them to the areas of volunteering that might work both for them and us, and also acknowledging that if this role doesn't feel right, then let's find another area they can support the animals in.

Sometimes our thanks is verbal or written, sometimes it's knowing the volunteer and how they like to help, and when the occasion arises, asking them to spearhead or contribute to the task. My goal is to make sure they know and feel how thankful we are that they have chosen to help HSS."

Volunteers: The Lifeblood of a Non-Profit

Once trained as a volunteer, you'll be reading *The Cat in the Hat* to kittens and *Rover the Big Red Dog* to puppies. You could play the guitar and soothe them with your rendition of *You've Got a Friend in Me*, by Randy Newman.

Volunteers also bring their skills in Reiki, energy work, and massage therapy to soothe and comfort the shelter animals. All of these caring people, and those who continue to serve vulnerable and helpless animals, should be recognized for the incredible work that



Volunteer Reading to a Cat

they have done.

Speaking of volunteers, Sedona residents Jeff and Deb Duffy have been active with the HSS for over six years. After over thirty years of marriage and just as many years traveling across the U.S. with their fifth wheel from their home in Rockport, Texas, they settled in Sedona in 2017.



Jeff and Deb Duffy with Cinnamon and Sugar

The Duffys had created their travels with a purpose and volunteered wherever they were needed. Places include: The Crane Site, Rimrock, Arizona, a fish hatchery in Kentucky, and five years at Walnut Canyon in Flagstaff, Arizona. Once permanently in Sedona, a friend raved about their experience at the shelter, and the rest is history. Loving on the kittens and cats is an experience they both cherish, while also receiving doggie love at home with their rescues Cinnamon, a seventeen-year-old shorthair dachshund, and Sugar, a ten-year-old Chihuahua mix.

In 2008, former elementary teacher Jacquie Randall spearheaded the popular program, the Kids and Kritters Camp. This became a way to raise funds and to teach children how to interact and care for animals. In the summer, there are sessions open to school-aged children seven to twelve years old.

The camp enhances kids' appreciation of animals, and not just for dogs and cats. The program includes a wide variety of animals like snakes, pigs, horses, birds, and even fish. (More info at tinyurl.com/2n5vewhf)

Randall is also the longest running volunteer. At 35 years with HSS, she's been involved in many aspects of the shelter. She was formerly the executive director, volunteer coordinator, and president of the board. She also wrote a weekly column, Paw Prints, for *The Red Rock News*. Her contributions to the HSS are invaluable.

Free tours of HSS are available, giving interested people an opportunity to experience a behind-the-scenes look and gain firsthand knowledge about the shelter.

HSS has also partnered with PetSmart in Sedona to supply food, toys, harnesses, and more. The store manager, Jake Henderson, has chosen both his career and volunteering as a way to help enrich and save the lives of animals.

According to Hayes, "He's a true animal advocate!"

A number of adoptable cats are housed comfortably in Petsmart, where felines wait for their forever homes while lounging within a comfortable bank of cat condominiums.

Haynes also shares



Jake Henderson, Petsmart, Sedona

that HSS has programs in place such as Keep Families Together which includes helpful, more affordable low-cost vaccination & microchip clinics, low cost spay & neuter, a community food bank at the shelter. It also supports local food banks and family shelters. HSS also has an emergency medical fund for those who qualify.

For their new adopters, there is Post Adoption Wellness Support (PAWS), a group of volunteers who follow up and offer support to people who have adopted a new pet. If needed, this can result in a few calls with counseling and resources to help.

Fundraising and Sustainability

In the 1950's to 1970's, many shelter activities were organized that are very different from today's fundraising ventures. Community BBQ's, concerts, Gold Bond Stamps, bake sales, aluminum-can collections, and grease-pit sales were the norm. These simpler ways worked for a long time, but the stakes are higher in the 21st century.

Expenses now include staff salaries, facility improvements, higher utility costs, and the endless need for supplies. Current needs include updated heating/cooling and new floors. HSS also wants to strengthen animals-to-people reunification.

Homemade spaghetti dinners and bake sales can no longer financially support all that needs to be accomplished. The influx of more affluent residents has seen a significant increase in philanthropy and successful fundraising endeavors. New fundraising events and creative profitable ideas include the Kids and Critters Camp, and the recent (and very successful), Critter Classic Golf Tournament.



Changes—For the Better

Appointments are now required for a meet and greet with the animals. The old routine of potential adopters randomly coming by the shelter is no longer allowed because it's been proven that a stream of people walking through the kennels leads to excessive barking, whining, cowering, overexcitement, and a general increase of stress and anxiety among the animals.

Some people still reminisce about the good old days when the public could pop by the shelter for a look. However, this new policy is best for the animals. HSS's website is full of pictures and descriptions about adoptable pets, making it easy to find the pet of your dreams.

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Powered by Community, Kindness, and Compassion

If you've spent any time in Rocky Point, you've likely seen them—dogs, alone and struggling to survive on the streets. Some are lost. Some are abandoned. Some were born into street life and have never had a moment to just be a dog. Their lives have been spent scrounging for their next meal, their next sip of water.

That's where we step in. Barb's Dog Rescue is built on a simple but powerful mission: To rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome dogs who deserve a better life. Every dog that comes into our care has a story, and while many of those stories begin with hardship, our goal is always the same: to help them find a safe, loving, forever home.

What many people may not realize is that everything we do is made possible entirely through donations. Every bag of food, every veterinary visit, every toy, treat, dog bed, leash, and every life we're able to save is because of the generosity of people who believe in what we do, and are proud to support it. We're honored to do the work, but it would not be possible without your giving.

Rescue work is hard. It's early mornings and late nights. It's physical work, constant problem-solving, and there are many scenarios that take a toll on our hearts. It's coordinating fosters, managing medical care, arranging adoptions, and sometimes stepping in during urgent situations when a dog has nowhere else to go. But it's also incredibly rewarding. There's nothing quite like watching a dog go from scared and uncertain to happy, healthy, and finally, home. These happy endings make it all worthwhile and remind us why we do what we do.

One of the biggest challenges we've faced has centered around our ability to match our beautiful dogs with adopters—not everyone travels to Mexico. With over 400 dogs in our care, this was a problem we had to address, and that is how Barb's Dog Rescue in Arizona, the most beautiful adoption center you've ever seen, was born. BDR in Arizona embodies all the things that make our Mexico

rescue so special, and you truly must see it to believe it.

Our facility is adorned with Mexican flair, thousands of square feet of both indoor and outdoor play spaces, plenty of cozy seating areas perfect for dog snuggling, and something Barb always longed for... a thrift store. We'd love for you to see what we're up to in Arizona. Please come and see us at Barb's Dog Rescue Arizona, located at 8028 W. Thunderbird Road in Phoenix.

Just like in Mexico, our Arizona location relies on donations for everything we have—if you have items to give, bring them on over. That goes for our thrift store as well—if it's something we can sell (does not need to be dog related), we'll turn it into funds that we can use to keep our Arizona location thriving.

We want to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who keeps Barb's Dog Rescue close to their hearts. There are so many ways to help support our cause. Aside from the most obvious (become a monthly donor, donating items, etc.), you can simply tell your friends and family about us.

Help increase our circle of supporters. Share our social media posts. Put together your own fundraisers or donation drives. Attend our events. Become a volunteer at our Mexico or Peoria locations. Foster a Mexi dog. The options are endless, and we're dazzled by our supporters' creativity.

From all of us at Barb's Dog Rescue—and from the dogs whose lives you've helped change—thank you.



Seasoned pet rescuers, marvel at the resilience of older abandoned dogs. They have an ability to reaffirm hope and love that amazes you.

The stumbling block is convincing more people how astounding an older (especially larger) dog can be, yet their presence can fill an empty space in our hearts.

We've often heard people list the same reasons (e.g., how hard it is to lose a dog; older ones may have habits that are hard to break) for turning their backs on an older homeless dog. We get it and have cried as many tears of loss as anyone. But the

rewards of owning a senior dog can be life altering. And sometimes with rescue, it should not be about us.

The older dogs we've come to help and love are full of life's lessons and wisdom. Some upsides include: training is less demanding and learning seems faster; they've established personalities, so you know what you are getting; you get to bypass the destructive, high-energy puppy stage; and for anyone with a more relaxed lifestyle, they provide a perfect fit and bring comfortable, easy companionship.

Sadly, many street dogs on the reservation do not get to live to older age. But Blackhat does have a few who are special and worthy of consideration.

There's Prince, who's about four years old—and he is indeed a prince. He showed up at a teacher's housing complex with an obvious enthusiasm for love. For being a vagabond, his eagerness to be with people, along with his manners around other dogs, is surprising and charming.

He has those winsome shepherd eyes that will offer lots of love in exchange for a caring home. And he has all the attributes that will make him a great pet, including being good on a leash, treat-motivated, appearing unconcerned when he sees a cat, and he's fully vetted.

He needs a large, secure yard to satisfy his routine of exercise. But what a fluffy teddy bear of a dog for the right home.

Then there's Mabel, a shepherd mix about nine years old, who is certainly a wise sage to have survived so long on the reservation. She showed up at the teachers' housing complex pre-pandemic, but had not been seen in a few years, causing the caring teacher's worst fears about her.

Then magically, a number of months ago, she reappeared.

She was already spayed, so getting her vaccines was all she needed. She seems to be done with being a nomad and just wants a place to hang out and watch the world go by.

She loves her treats and will put up a paw in high-five fashion in exchange, and she is an easy keeper. She gets along with other dogs, but she may have some hearing loss, or maybe selective hearing.

She will give you the unique gift of gratitude that only an older dog, who has seen too much sadness can offer, and she is content to spend days outside in the warm sun when the weather allows. She will bring easy contentment to the right home.

We would be remiss not to mention Reed, who is a bit younger, but who has also seen too much of the hard life. Being a black dog (possibly Australian cattle dog mix), he has an added barrier to overcome.

Since Blackhat took him in, he's shown an amazing gift for learning and is a wiz on the leash and with his manners. He is a bit younger, which makes him perfect for someone who likes to hike and enjoy what nature has to offer with a dog-pal. He's eager to please and is a ready companion for adventures.

Life's lessons can come at you gentle as a breeze or hard as a rock, but they always leave you with new wisdom, and that's what sharing your life with a rescued older dog will offer you.

If you think one of these dogs will help round out your life, or you want to see who else we have for great companions, please visit blackhathumanesociety.org. We stand ready to teach you about the power of resilience.

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Wishes for the Next Sixty Years

According to Volunteer Coordinator Deb Hayes, the wish list for the future of the HSS is as follows: "We'd like to have a permanent location for our Paws West Thrift store, expand our medical wing to accommodate more animals who come in injured or ill, modernize our cat area to create more communal housing spaces for them, and endow and name volunteer coordinator and veterinarian positions. Our biggest wish of all is that all companion animals find their forever families."

The odds are with them, based on past successes.

Please consider volunteering, donating, or both. Don't hesitate to call 928-282-4679 to set up your personal appointment to meet your next fur baby today.

More Information
humanesocietyofsedona.org

Social Media
Facebook: [HumaneSocietyofSedona](https://www.facebook.com/HumaneSocietyofSedona)
Instagram: [humanesocietyofsedona](https://www.instagram.com/humanesocietyofsedona)
YouTube: [HumaneSocietyofSedona](https://www.youtube.com/HumaneSocietyofSedona)



More Paws, More Purpose: Meeting the Needs of a Post-Pandemic Pet Population

Over the past several years, animal shelters across the country have experienced a noticeable shift in their intake demographics, and for us at the Humane Society of Sedona, the change has been especially striking.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the number of puppies and kittens entering the shelter's care has increased dramatically. What was once a seasonal influx of a few dozen young animals each year has grown into the intake of over 100 animals aged six months and under each year.

This surge can be traced back to the early days of the pandemic, when access to veterinary care became limited and many public spay and neuter programs were forced to pause or shut down entirely. With fewer resources available to prevent unplanned litters, the effects were inevitable. Now, years later, even smaller shelters like HSS are still feeling the ripple effects of that disruption.

Even in 2026, we're continuing to see the aftermath. The increase in litters hasn't slowed the way we hoped it would. It's become our new normal. In response, we have taken proactive steps to address the growing need.

One of the most impactful developments has been the launch of our community spay and neuter clinic! Designed to provide lower-cost options than traditional veterinary services, the clinic helps make essential care more accessible to local pet owners.

For those facing financial hardship, additional assistance opportunities may be available, ensuring that cost is less of a barrier when it comes to preventing unwanted litters.

HSS has also expanded our outreach through twice-yearly vaccine and microchip clinics. These events, which offer affordable preventative care, have seen attendance grow exponentially in recent years, further demonstrating both the need within the community and the willingness of

pet owners to seek out these services when they are accessible.

Another key initiative is our developing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, which focuses on managing the population of community cats in a humane and effective way.

Through TNR, free-roaming cats are safely trapped, spayed or neutered, and then returned to their outdoor environments. This approach allows community cats to live out their lives without contributing to the cycle of overpopulation.

For 60 years, the Humane Society of Sedona has served as a vital resource for animals and the people who care about them.

As a stand-alone nonprofit organization, we operate independently—receiving no funding from national humane organizations such as the ASPCA and only minimal support from government sources. Our work is made possible largely through the generosity of local donors and the support of the community.

As the shelter continues to navigate the long-term impacts of the pandemic, our mission remains unchanged: To provide compassionate care, reduce pet overpopulation, and strengthen the bond between people and animals.

Through expanded programs and a deep commitment to the community, the Humane Society of Sedona is working every day to meet the growing need—one animal at a time. We hope you will seek us out when you are in need. We are here for you, and your pets.

If you are a pet parent in need and would like to learn more about services offered at the Humane Society of Sedona, or if you'd like to get involved with their mission, please call them at 928-282-4679 or visit humanesocietyofsedona.org to learn more.



Summer is here, and while most of us are excited about sunshine, backyard barbecues, lake days and outdoor adventures, summer in Arizona can become dangerous for our pets very quickly. This time of year, a little extra awareness can go a long way in keeping our furry family members safe, healthy, and happy.

One of the biggest concerns during

the summer months is heatstroke. Dogs don't sweat like humans do. They cool themselves mainly by panting, and when temperatures climb into those triple digits, that's not always enough. It doesn't take long for a pet to overheat, especially during walks, hikes, or time spent outside without enough shade or water.

Signs of heatstroke can include excessive panting, drooling, bright red gums, vomiting, weakness, stumbling, or even collapsing.

If you notice any of those symptoms, move your pet into a cool area immediately, offer small sips of water, and contact your veterinarian right away.

When it comes to walks, timing matters. Early mornings and evenings are always safest during the summer. And please remember the pavement test.

Place your hand on the pavement for several seconds. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your dog's paws. Burned paw pads are extremely painful and can take a long time to heal.

Every summer, we continue to hear heartbreaking stories about pets left in parked vehicles. Even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car rises incredibly fast. What feels "not too bad" outside can quickly become life-threatening inside a vehicle. Please never leave your pet in the car, even for "just a minute." It simply isn't worth the risk.

Hydration is also incredibly important this time of year. Whether you're hanging out in the backyard, heading to the lake, or taking your dog on an adventure, always make sure fresh, cool water is available.

Bringing along a collapsible water bowl is an easy way to help your pet stay hydrated while you're on the go. Some pets also enjoy frozen treats during the summer, like ice cubes made with low-sodium broth or pet-safe frozen snacks.

Summer in Arizona also means fox-tails, and while they may look harmless, they can create serious medical problems for pets. These little barbed weeds can work their way into paws, ears, noses, eyes, and skin, causing painful infections and sometimes even requiring surgery.

After walks or outdoor playtime, check your pet carefully, especially between their toes and around their ears. If you notice excessive licking, sneezing, limping, swelling, or head shaking, it's important to have them checked by a veterinarian.

And of course, with warmer weather comes more rattlesnake activity. Dogs are naturally curious, and unfortunately, that curiosity can sometimes get them into trouble. If you're hiking or walking in areas where snakes may be present, always keep your dog on a leash and stay on marked trails. Giving snakes space and avoiding tall brush can help prevent dangerous encounters.

Summer also brings an increase in fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. Besides being annoying, these pests can spread disease and create serious health concerns for pets. Talk with your veterinarian about the best flea, tick, and heartworm prevention for your pet based on their age, health, and lifestyle.

Even our own backyards can hold hidden dangers. Certain plants, including oleander, lilies, and sago palms, are toxic to pets. Fertilizers, weed killers, and some mulches can also be harmful. And while citronella candles and essential oils may smell nice and help keep bugs away from us, some can be dangerous for pets.

And let's not forget, monsoon season is right around the corner. Loud thunder, lightning, wind, and heavy rain can be incredibly stressful for some animals.

If your pet struggles with storm anxiety, creating a calm, safe place inside the house can really help. Soft blankets, calming music, favorite toys, and simply being near them can provide comfort during storms.

Sometimes the best way to show our pets how much we love them is by letting them stay safe and cool inside in the air conditioning while we head out to run errands or enjoy outdoor activities ourselves. Not every adventure needs to include them, and that's okay.

Our pets trust us completely. They count on us to protect them, care for them, and keep them safe. And honestly, there's no better feeling than knowing we've done everything we can for the animals who love us so unconditionally.



MILLIE: A 5yo female English Staffordshire terrier mix. A big, happy spirit, stunning eyes, bouncy ears. Smart, friendly, curious, good on the leash, and eager to please. Adoption fee is sponsored. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679.



MUENSTER: Handsome 1.5yo, weighs ~40 lbs. He has the sweetest little face. He is a huge lover of adventure and would make an excellent hiking buddy for an active family. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



LADY TEELA: A 5yo shepherd/hound mix. Beautiful, curious, happy, cuddly, smart, mostly calm w/gentle disposition. Intelligent, trainable, food motivated. Loves a good belly rub. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



TAZ: Small 4yo male, weighs under 20 lbs. Sweet, snuggly, wants to be near his people. Crate trained, walks beautifully on a leash. Adventure dog, has already conquered Mt. Elden. High Country Humane Society 928-526-0742



THOR: A 2yo male Great Pyrenees mix. Playful, funny, intelligent. Gentle family caretaker w/protective demeanor. Calm yet alert. Friendly, loves everybody, belly rubs, squeaky toys. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



HARRY: A 3mo male puppy. He is full of puppy energy and ready to learn! Training is up to my new family, and he's excited to master things like potty training, basic commands, and socializing. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



BARNEY: A 13-month-old brindle mixed breed male who wants to be your new adventure buddy. He is happy, curious, playful, smart, joyful, and friendly. His adoption fee is sponsored. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



DIALGA: Super cute 11-week-old male puppy. This pup is looking for adopters who will shower him with attention, training and exercise. Dialga looks like he'll grow to reach a medium size. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



ET: A 3mo male mixed breed puppy. Full of curiosity, love and a touch of playful mischief. He has a wonderful personality. He should mature at about 40 pounds. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



GINGER: 2yo female who weighs about 50 pounds. She is a friendly, fun, and energetic youngster with a silly side. Very smart. She is looking for active adopters. Walks well on leash. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



MARCIA: A 1-year-old female mixed breed with amazing ears. She weighs about 32 pounds. For further information, please contact the High Country Humane Society at 928-526-0742.



GAVIN: A 2-year-old large male dog who weighs about 60 pounds. This young, playful, and energetic boy is seeking adopters who share his love for adventure and staying active. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



TARSIER: A 1-year-old male Shar Pei mix. He weighs about 30 pounds. For more information, please contact the High County Humane Society at 928-526-0742.



HIRO: A 1-year-old male who will weigh about 50 pounds full grown. He is handsome, young and ready for adventures. He's active and would love to meet any potential doggie siblings. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



LEGION: 2yo male. Friendly, the kind of dog who genuinely enjoys meeting new people along the way. Thrives on attention, movement and shared adventures. Lots of love to give. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



TUQUE: 2yo male Cattle Dog mix. Well trained, good w/other dogs, loves kids. High energy, an awesome hiking/running partner. Good on a leash, travels well. Yavapai Humane Trappers 508-735-4866 or dsb.mancu@gmail.com



LINK: 1yo male Australian cattle dog w/some hound thrown in. Good w/other dogs & people. Good on a leash. Medium energy level, perfect companion. Blackhat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or elmorromaynes@gmail.com



BETSY: A sweet 10mo female terrier mix. Weighs ~20 lbs. Good w/other dogs & cats. Warms up to new people quickly. Wants to be with her people. Yavapai Humane Trappers 508-724-4866 or dsb.mancu@gmail.com



PATTY PAN: 6mo female shep/cattle dog mix. Good w/dogs & cats. Energetic, eager to please, house trained. A great, entertaining buddy. Blackhat Humane Society blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942



RONNIE: 8mo male Cattle Dog/Blue Heeler mix. Brave, adventurous. Gets along with other dogs. Potty trained. Walks well on a leash, learning commands. Yavapai Humane Trappers 508-724-4866 or dsb.mancu@gmail.com



CADENCE: 2yo red heeler mix at the perfect age; past the goofy puppy stage but still lively. She is fully vetted, lives with other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942



ACE: 1yo male Cattle Dog. Smart, athletic, always ready. Will do best with an adopter who understands the needs of a high-energy working dog. Eager to learn. Yavapai Humane Trappers 508-724-4866 or dsb.mancu@gmail.com



ZELDA: Young female mixed breed. Attacked as a puppy, one leg could not be saved. A trusting, gentle soul, friendly with people & other dogs. Blackhat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942



ROCKY: A 4-year-old Pit Bull male. He is a gentleman who wants to be a lap dog and loves cuddles. He walks very nicely on a leash and enjoys hitting the trails. Loves kids. Yavapai Humane Trappers 508-724-4866 or dsb.mancu@gmail.com



CAMMIE: A 9-month-old female Cattle Dog mix. She had a rough start in life but has overcome so much. I would do well with other dogs and cats. I would be a great only dog. Blackhat Humane Society/Kendra at 928-310-5800



TOBY: 2yo male mixed breed, ~40 pounds. He's a bit timid, but very sweet. He gets along with other dogs, but we're not sure about cats yet. Yavapai Humane Trappers 508-724-4866 or dsb.mancu@gmail.com

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ONYX: Beautiful, semi-feral, independent cat. Needs a calm, understanding adopter. Nervous w/new people, may not be a lap cat, would love a home where can feel safe and respected. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



KORI: 2yo female. Sweet Kori is ready for a forever home. She may take a bit of time to settle into her new surroundings. She's looking for patient, understanding adopters. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



SHER KAHN: 14yo medium-haired male, adjusting after losing owner. Can be a little nervous at first. He's a gentle, sweet cat who just needs some time to feel safe again. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



SMOKY: A charming grey and white male born 3/5/26. He is a lovebug who likes to have his belly rubbed. Likes to be held. When you pick him up, the purring starts. He's very friendly. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



OREO: Semi-feral looking for calm, patient home where can feel safe. Excellent mouser, enjoys patrolling & helping keep critters in check. I would thrive as an indoor/outdoor feline. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



BRUNO: A 3-year-old male tabby. He is a truly special cat with a heart full of love. He is affectionate, gentle, and enjoys being around people. He loves everyone he meets. Good with other cats. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



THYME: 4yo long-haired grey tabby with a soft coat and an even softer heart. She is always happy to accept gentle pets and quickly leans into affection once she knows you're a friend. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



MING TAI: A sweet and petite 2-year-old tortoiseshell. She does enjoy being wherever her person is. Will lie in your lap. Likes to sleep next to you. Good with dogs and other cats. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



SALT: A most handsome 3-year-old white male. He is sweet and gentle and would love a quiet home with gentle hands. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



BASIL: Affectionate, extremely sweet 1yo male tuxedo, wonderful personality. Enjoys other cats, prefers adult home. Devoted and affectionate companion. United Animal Friends 928-778-2924



SMUDGE: A 2-year-old white and brown male with his signature smudge on his nose. He's all about people and is a super-sweet cuddle bug. He's a solid guy at 14 pounds. High country Humane 928-526-0742



BONNIE: Pest Control Pro, no adoption fee. Not a lap cat. Is a skilled hunter who thrives in outdoor environments like barns, workshops, garages, and warehouses. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



FIESTA: A 3-month-old female black kitten. Good with other cats and kids. She is playful, silly, and fearless. Loves to talk. Her favorite place to sleep is cuddled up in your lap. High Country Humane/foster text 928-814-6332



PEPPER: Male tabby. Quietly observant, confidently independent. He asks for affection by leaning in for gentle pets, then happily returns to a cozy corner to recharge. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



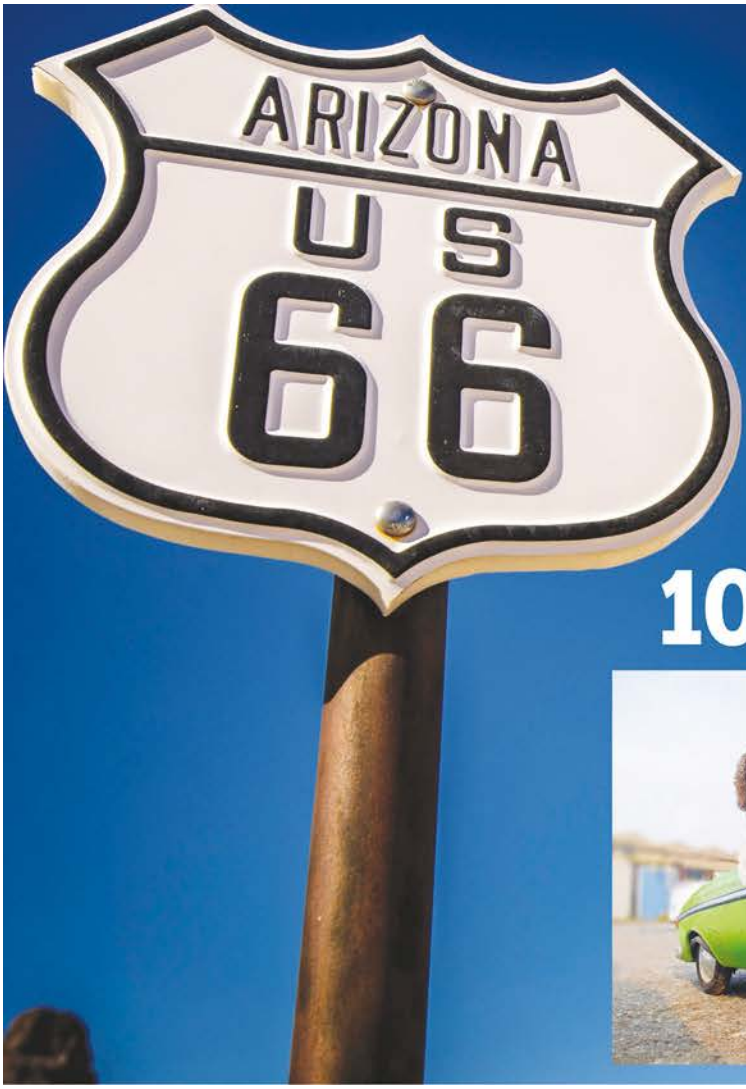
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Emotional Support Animals on the Rise

Has the Trend Gone Too Far?

By Njeri Dean

Why is there a man holding a crocodile on a plane that is about to take off? Why is there a miniature horse standing beside a woman in a coffee shop while she sits at a table drinking her morning cup of joe? Most of all, why is there a man perusing the aisles in a bookstore with an iguana on his shoulder?

These are all reasonable questions that people have thought of asking or have asked. They're trying to understand the evolving phenomena of the emotional support animal.

Apparently dogs aren't the only ones certified to love. In recent years many reptiles and mammals, foreign and domestic, have been deemed fit to help people who have emotional issues. Many emotional support animals are brought to public places and into situations that are stressful and can trigger their owners to behave out of character or become disruptive. For the majority of people who don't have an emotional support animal, their presence can be distracting, overwhelming, and purely bothersome.

Most animals are discouraged from public places because they're viewed as a liability and an obvious health code violation. Exceptions are made for animals in most public places if a person has a disability, including being blind or having a debilitating illness. Having an emotional disorder can disrupt your life, but do you really need an animal—an exotic one for that matter—to regulate your emotions?

Most bystanders who have seen emotional support animals in real life and on TV think they're absurd and unnecessary to the person they're helping. Drawing attention in a mostly negative capacity, emotional support animals usually create unwanted attention, health concerns, and safety risks for people who are nearby when the animals are out in public.

The people who acquire these animals often claim the person has a disability and can't function without them. Performing daily mundane tasks such as getting groceries, flying on airplanes, and other necessary activities that put test their emotional wellbeing is simply not possible without the presence of their animal-kingdom friends.



their mental health for a brighter future and to carry on with their everyday lives. Professionals who study mental disorders have found that animals can calm people when it comes to combating mental disorders. Studies have shown that the presence and touch of animals can release endorphins and regulate a person's mood, therefore putting the body at ease and decreasing stress and triggers that can cause negative side effects when someone lives with a mental disability.

Animals have a sixth sense when it comes to

detecting emotions, especially in human beings. With a keen sense of smell and awareness, many animals can predict and detect when a person is uncomfortable and about to have an episode or a mental breakdown. Knowing that a familiar presence, such as an animal, is close can calm and put at ease someone who has an emotional or mental disability.

With the phenomenon not slowing down anytime soon, the world will have to adapt to the animals. Has the craze gone too far? It's a bit of an annoyance in some people's point of view. But for those people who have an emotional or mental disorder, it's a remedy, and it works perfectly.

What can you say? Don't knock it before you try it.

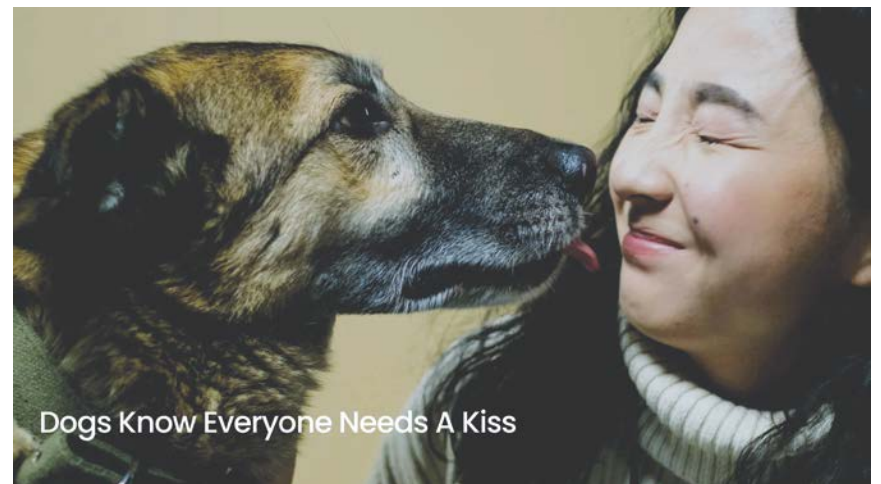
Has society gone too far? Has it really made people co-dependent on the animal kingdom for survival? What happened to traditional therapy and facing your problems head on?

Why some people pick the oddest animals to be their emotional support animal is anybody's guess. Knowing that an animal looks strange and might cause a stir is what most people risk when obtaining a support animal that the public is unaware of and deems odd.

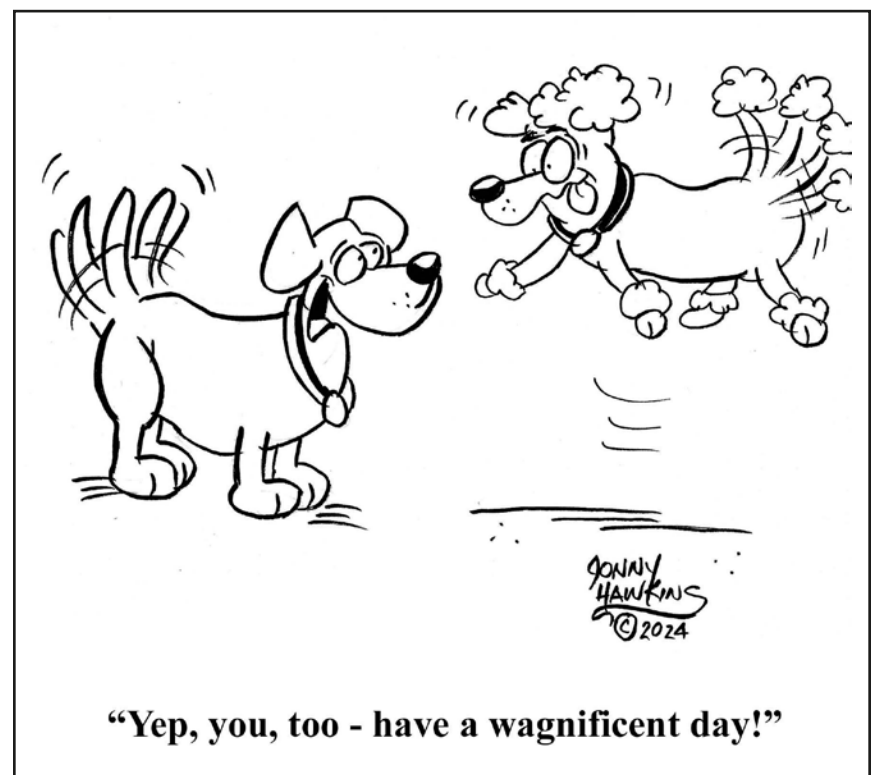
There is no such thing as a training program that certifies an animal to be an emotional support animal. The only thing that makes any animal deemed capable of being an emotional support animal is a valid letter from a trained, licensed professional stating that the animal is certified to help their human counterpart. One simple letter lets any animal be taken anywhere the owner desires.

Most people need to realize that we are living in a world where we need to adapt and change with the times. What works for others might not work for another person or group of people. There are some positive aspects of having emotional support animals that nobody ever talks about.

With mental health being a priority to the world today, more people are finding unique and unorthodox ways to regulate and maintain



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Close windows/curtains to muffle the sound

Put on some music or the TV to mask the sounds

Ignore the noise yourself.

Create a distraction for your dog; play with toys or sit together for pets.

Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine

Prescott Dog magazine

Publishers Note: Personal Fireworks are ILLEGAL in Arizona and more dangerous to our pet community. Please let the professionals handle the fireworks.

San Antonio With Your Dog: Plan It Right, Walk It Early

By Stacey Wittig

River Walk strolls, mission trails, and why timing matters when Texas heat meets furry travelers

San Antonio might not land on your dog's dream destination list, and that's okay. This is a city you do strategically with your four-legged traveling companion. Come at the right time, plan your days around the weather, and you'll find some genuinely enjoyable ways to explore together. Show up in July at noon? Your co-pilot will file a formal complaint.

Start early—earlier than you think you need to. The River Walk is the obvious place to begin, especially in the morning when the air feels crisp.

Being below street level helps a little with shade, and the movement of the water seems to soften the edges of the heat. For your buddy, it's one long, uninterrupted sniffari, with just enough activity to keep things interesting.

Leashed companions are welcome, and many of the patio restaurants along the way will bring out water without you asking. Stay too long, though, and things change.

The narrow walkways fill, the sidewalk starts holding heat, and you'll find yourself adjusting your pace instead of enjoying it. Aim to be wrapping up your walk by 10 a.m.

If your co-pilot still has energy—and they probably will—head south toward Mission Reach. This stretch runs for miles and feels like a different version of the city, with fewer people, more space, and a pace that settles in naturally.



Doggie cooling fan.
Courtesy Visit San Antonio.

Along the way, you'll come to the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park. The buildings are off-limits for dogs, but the grounds are open, and that's where most four-legged explorers are happiest anyway. Shade can be limited in parts of this stretch, so it's worth paying attention to how your dog is handling the heat. Bring more water than you think you'll need.

For a different kind of outing, San Antonio has a few parks worth your time. McAllister Park and Phil Hardberger Park offer trails and open space to stretch out, while the Pearl Dog Spot is a smaller, more social option where dogs can go off-leash, and you can grab something nearby once everyone settles down. You can also make a quick stop at The Alamo. Your tag-a-long can't go inside, but they're welcome outside the gates for a photo. It's brief, easy to fit in, and then you're on your way again.

Finding a place to stay with your travel partner takes a little more intention. One standout is Kimp-ton Santo San Antonio Riverwalk, which rolls out the welcome mat for

your sidekick—no extra pet fees, no side-eye at check-in. After a long, warm day out together, that kind of welcome goes a long way.

Timing, though, matters more than almost anything else when planning this trip. November through April is when San Antonio works best for traveling duos like you. You can walk longer, linger on patios, and worry a little less about the pavement heating up under those well-traveled paws.

If you happen to be here in October, there's one event that's worth planning around: Dachtobefest. Expect wiener-dog races, a crowd that's fully into it, and more personality than you'd expect from a group of very short legs. The Diamond Dachshund Rescue of Texas hosts the event, and it supports their rescue work.

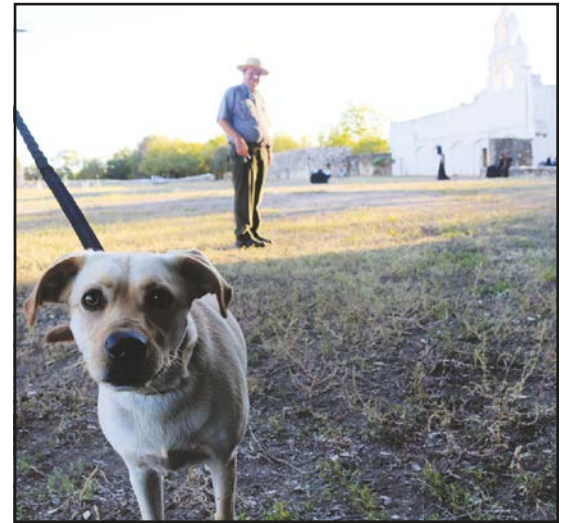
San Antonio with a dog takes a little planning, but walk it right, and you'll find yourself moving through layers of history—from the missions to the River Walk—with your co-pilot at your side. Add in the city's seriously good food and those easy patio stops, and it becomes the kind



San Antonio Rodeo Grounds.
Courtesy Visit San Antonio.

of trip that lands right in the sweet spot for both of you.

Stacey Wittig writes from her home just off Route 66 in northern Arizona, where the next adventure is always in the works. Get more travel inspiration at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com.



San Antonio Missions ranger.
Courtesy Chantelle Ruidant-Hansen, NPS.



San Antonio River Walk by Stacey Wittig



San Antonio Missions walk.
Courtesy Chantelle Ruidant-Hansen, NPS.



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Nature is Nurture: Healing Trauma with Pack Time in the Wilds

By Solana Kline. Honorary four-legger, dog rescue advocate, and US public lands/trails researcher



Exploring the wilds within and outside

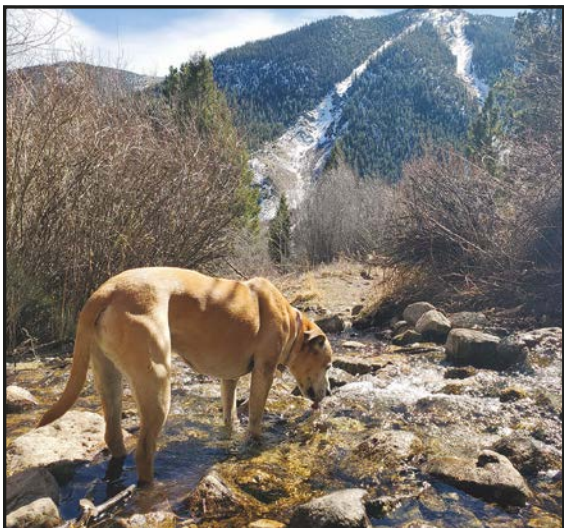
Golden hour is thick this evening, sunset's dense embrace of way-too-early spring warm. The trees and grasses aren't awake yet. They know better—after all, it's only mid-March. Descending from our hike, me and the hounds have one more stream to cross, sleeping willow branches dancing with the breezes, dipping in and out of the babbling waters.

Betts is tiptoeing across, avoiding the frigid flow on her delicate princess paws. There is pure peace in the air up here, the calm before the storm of Spring flurry and life and growth. A quiet that perhaps only exists at the change of seasons, like that unmistakable silence of first snows. Betty stands there mid-stream, balancing on boulders, sunbeams haloing her white hairs.

Micks has already flopped down in the soft tufts of last year's creek-bank grasses, rolling around scratching his back, nestling his nose into the earth down. I sit beside him. After a hectic year of man-made mayhem and unnatural human hustle, I sit with this boy in the sunset. Betts braves the creek passing again to re-join the pack chill. We all breathe deep and exhale, palpable shared calm.

Out here there is no mile-long to-do list, no phone service, no traffic, no people. Just our wild pack communing with our real home, where we get to be feral and free. Where our respective amygdalae rest, where our respective past traumas are carried downstream and upwind, down into the earth to be reborn as wild rose blossoms. Where all that matters is deciphering the next sniffer that floats across our faces.

Out here, we remember our natural state as animals, unincumbered by societal pressures to be a good dog



Cold creek crossings make for the best watering holes

(i.e., don't sniff butts/crotches, don't pee there, don't romp around or bark too loudly) and be a docile woman (i.e., don't sniff butts/crotches, don't pee there, don't romp around or speak too loudly). Out here, we just are, our stress responses calm, and we nap in the grace of sunbeams on an early Spring day.

Nature heals us because it is home, it is where Homo sapiens (humans) and Canis lupus familiaris (domesticated dogs) have lived for hundreds of thousands of years, up until industrialization and urbanization, mainly the last one or two hundred years. For the first time in dog-human coexistence, we are living in concrete, artificial noise, and constant nervous system stimulation.

Now nature, our home, is out there, away from the city development and norms of polite society. And with it is one of our most immense healing sources for both canine and human healing. In nature, our minds, bodies, psyches, and souls heal. They regenerate via rest and peace and connection in and with nature.

Most of my research focuses on this, the non-monetary value and worth of our US public lands, especially trails. I've experienced this exponential healing firsthand. US public land trails have literally saved my life more than once, but, more importantly, I have seen and felt the immense impact outdoor time in nature has for our pups, especially our adopted pups who may have some difficult past traumas and lingering responses.

Mickey and Betty both came from human-urban landscapes. Ms. Betts as an ex-street dog from Sacramento, littering from her first heat, healing broken wrists and ribs in alleys, fending off bums and other street dogs. Eventually being separated from her litter by the puppy police and thrown in the high-kill clink and death row.

Thank goodness Oregon Friends of Shelter Animals swooped her up, with so many other survivors, in their old gutted out RV and fostered her up in Oregon where I could find her. Mr. Mickey was born and prodded to fight, caged and chained, scarred skins and broken bones, waterless, no space to run or play, tortured with fire and famine, ears assaulted with guns and constant onslaught of noise and aggression. Thank goodness some good human reported his conditions, and he ended up in the Nevada Humane Society where me and Betts could find him.

The first place I brought both of these wagglers was to the trails in the woods. Where their trauma and fear responses could calm, where the fabricated human constraints and controls melted away. Where they could sprint and sniff and explore the ways that their biology told them they were destined to. It is out here in nature, on the trails together as a pack, that I've seen these two learn how to be dogs, learn how to be a pack.

In our human societies, we call this ecotherapy or nature-based therapy. Humans across the globe are practicing this to heal and manage PTS and other high trauma/high stress responses. There isn't much research or programming on how we can employ these strategies



On scent of wild burro near Kingman



Taking in the creekside calm

for helping our pups heal and be healthy as well, so let's go ahead and change that right now.

The researched benefits of nature-based healing for humans are: reducing stress hormones like cortisol, physical grounding and reconnection to the body, coming out of fight-flight response and regulating the nervous system, using sensory experiences to restructure our brain's neural pathways into calm positive possibilities, restoring trust and safety, fostering safe connections to ourselves and nature, re-learning relationships with self and others, learning/remembering how to play and adventure, and remembering that life is more than the trauma we experienced.

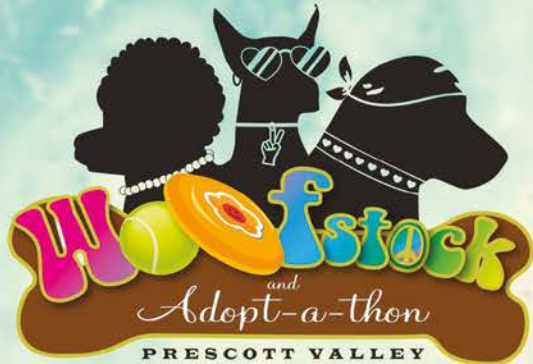
Betty and Mickey have experienced all of these benefits during our trail time together in nature. The changes were both immediate and long-term. Betty had only been in concrete and pavement, she went from being a novice tottering off-road explorer to bounding around as the nimblest of mountain goats, beasting across any terrain with ease should she get that zoomy inclination. Shifting from flinching at any little creek or critter to becoming the stout warrior staring down bear and elk and human and cattle.

On Mickey's Freedom Day, our first stop was Brown's Creek Trail up in USFS lands above Reno. Slow and hesitant at first, he delighted in the soft texture of the dirt trail, Tigger-springing around, unsure of this new environment, promptly falling into the creek- not yet understanding thin ice and flowing water. A completely different pup from the terrified and highly reactive boy I'd met hours earlier in the humane society.

Over the years, our daily trail adventures have brought peace, confidence, play, and grounding to each of these hounds. They truly have become fully themselves and fully a pack through the healing of trails in nature.

We prioritize nature trail time for exploration and peace. For healing and bonding. For remembering that we are here on earth to connect. To give and receive unconditional love. To play and laugh and wag together as pack families. To remember our birthright and roots as animals of this earth. To be and feel the goodness of nature and ourselves.

Until next time, here's to the healing powers of happy tails and happy trails of Spring!



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