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August/September 2026

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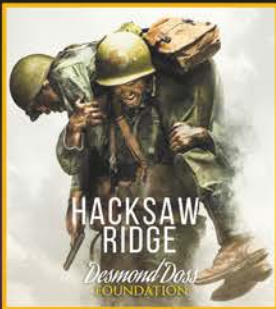


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Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine COVER DOG CONTEST



It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

- 1) Choose a backdrop for your picture. Set your camera on large or high and capture a quality shot of your canine pal.
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Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine



Toby, Our Cover Dog

Hola, everypawdy! My name is Toby, my mom also calls me Bugger, but I guess it doesn't matter much because I'm deaf!

I was born in Colorado Springs and lived there for a year until my mom brought me back to live in her hometown with her, my Nana, and Poopa. She adopted me after my brother, Teddy, was adopted by her close friend.

I was born March 13th, 2023, so I'm 3 years old. On special me days, my mom puts me in some sort of outfit, takes me out for a pup cup, and then the park to celebrate ME! I wish it was my birthday everyday.

Who took my picture? My mom is always waving her hands to get my attention to look at her rectangle thing; I usually just give her a side eye. She has started posting me more on my very own Instagram: @TobyAteRocks

My usual menu consists of the Purina ONE chicken kibble, usually followed by a few sneaky bites of my Poopa and Nana's dinner. I'm always ready to catch whatever comes to my snout.

My favorite people food is me encanta Poopa's carne asada, chicken, watermelon, carrots and cheese. I've tried a few rocks in my day, but my mom doesn't let me have those anymore after getting a lot of expensive pictures of my insides and going to sleep for them to remove them. She always talks about how important this thing called pet insurance is. I don't know, that's hooman talk.

I LOVE BALLS! I could play fetch all day with anything if I'm honest. I like the Chew King balls, and any stuffy my mom will give me occasionally. She doesn't like that I try to find the seams to get the fun fuzzy confetti inside. She just doesn't get that it's always time to party.

I love being outside! I love going paddleboarding at Watson lake. I get to just lounge with my paws and tail in the water while my mom fights the wind and water. We also play fetch at the park and practice my tricks for treats. Sometimes, my mom likes to go lay out on the hammock and I like to patrol the yard under her to alert her whenever cars, leaves, people, or a strange smell in the air is nearby.

When I'm inside, I like to grab whatever toy I have near by and puppy-eye my



way to get someone to play fetch with me. Sometimes I'll play fight with my dog brothers, Charger and Monstro, but they're older than me and don't like chasing me around for very long.

Sleeping is one of my favorite past times. I'll lay right in the middle of the hoomans on the couch like a lap dog and take a siesta until it's time for real mimis time in my big bed with mom. She makes me sleep at the foot of the bed. (Shhh... sometimes I like to sneak my way up to be closer to her through the night just to cuddle. I just miss her sometimes and need to be touching her in some way.)

Let's talk about my work-out routine. I go on walks to the park, in the neighborhood, and hiking around the lakes here in town when it's not so hot out. I also keep my figure by running laps around our house—Poopa swears I'm the fastest. My mom will throw a toy for me to fetch, or if I have a soccer ball to chase it's a good day for me.

As for my favorite canine pal, I've had SO many friends! We love you Kobe, Charger, Monstro, Kali, and Teddy!! Each one is very different, but I love them all the same. They all taught me so many things like how to guard you food, how to play with smaller dogs, cuddling up in a small dog bed, WWE fighting in the backyard during a baby shower, and racing for the fastest lap around the house. They're all perfect to me.

My perfect day? Easy. Sleep in with mom. Paddleboard. Bath. Pup cup. Nap. Fetch at a grassy park. Carne Asada. Nap. Late night snack. Fresh bed sheets. Cuddled in, and it's mimis time!



Keira's Korner

When You Can't Farm, Find a Towel

Rain. Still. I turned to Mom, who was doing the dishes, to get her opinion. "I'll check in a minute Keira, but my hands are wet right now."

I heard the wind pick up a bit during breakfast, and it was obvious the sun wasn't winning at breaking through the clouds. Mom's and my farming in the garden might be delayed, or even canceled. Sigh.

Mom finished up the dishes, dried her hands, and hung the towel on the oven door. I made a mental note. She picked up the little rectangle, poking and staring at it while I waited at the patio door hoping against hope.

"It's gonna be a bit longer Keira. We should go out now to do our business before the rain gets heavy."

Dad walked by with an empty coffee cup while Mom held the rectangle where he could see it as he yawned. He walked partway back towards the hall.

"Red circle incoming. Let's go, you lazy hounds, and get outside. Come on, let's gooooo!"

Both pointy-eared girls came running—Pru and our oldest pack sister. Hazel beelined for the kitchen thinking that red circle might be a treat. Dad, waiting at the patio door, gave a sharp whistle while stepping outside into the drizzle.

Distant thunder sounded, and Dad urged Hazel not to take off back to the bedroom until she had gone outside. Tucker, my only pack brother, must've been roused from sleep by the thunder's vibrations. He appeared at the door weighing if it was worth it to brave the light rain while pacing back and forth to find the perfect spot to do his business.

"C'mon Tuck. Rain never hurt a retriever."

Dad reached through the door to give the old sheriff an encouraging pat. Hazel blasted back through the door having finished. More distant rumbling, and an increase in wind motivated her urgent stride back to the bedroom.

Mom had grabbed two big towels for Tucker and me. We both had headed straight out to the open area, and even though I was done now, Tuck was still pacing around. I decided to keep him company and gave suggestions each time he walked by.

"What about the corner near the north gate Tuck?"

"Wrong wind direction Keira."

I waited for his next pass. "How 'bout under the pine tree by the table, Tuck?"

"Too close to Pru at the moment, Keira."

Pru had become fascinated with the branches waving back and forth over her head. As a fur-challenged breed, she automatically headed for cover when coming outside. Cold wind and rain are not her favorite things.

Dad became aware at how wet Tuck was getting and called Pru into the house. She gave the dancing branches one last look and trotted inside.

"Pine tree is clear, Tucker."

Tucker was noticing how wet he was getting.

"Are you just going to stand there, Keira?" Mom asked, wondering if more towels were going to be needed.

"I'm waiting for Tucker, Mom."

Tucker was now planting his rear feet one after the other, waiting for the go signal, which came soon after.

A close overhead crack of lightning broke up the outdoor party right as Tuck was heading back to the door. Dad shooed us through quickly and slid the patio door shut when we were all safe inside.

Mom frantically covered Tuck and me with towels and was alternately rubbing both of us down and trying to keep us from wondering off just yet.

"A little help here!" Mom demanded, but Dad had stepped back outside to batten down the hatches as the heavens opened with a downpour and a roar of wind.



Keira with her dish towel



"Gotta check on the ark at the moment," was his reply to Mom.

Tuck and I watched Dad through the patio door as he ran back and forth to the garden shed with armloads of garden tools, a wheelbarrow, empty pots, and a bag of yard waste that hadn't made it to the trashcan yet. Next, he slid the door open to grab car keys and ran back outside. Moments later, he came back inside, drenched and dripping.

Mom started laughing at Dad because he looked half his normal size with his wet clothes clinging tight. Kind of like Tucker when he gets a bath, with his curly white fur wet (with apricot highlights); then, he looks like the tiniest of retrievers.

Mom turned her attention from Tuck and me to dripping Dad. I took that opportunity to find Mom's phone. It was on the couch, so I put my muzzle on top of it. I nose-whistled twice to speed up detection.

Mom, stopping toweling up the floor to see what I was doing. "Is that my phone Keira?"

I wagged twice in affirmation. "What are you doing with my phone?"

Two more wags.

Mom got up and took the phone and put it on the kitchen island. I waited till Mom resumed cleaning up Dad's puddle by the door, and then quietly pulled the dishtowel off the oven door handle.

I admit that I've never been able to fold a dishtowel like Mom does, but I try anytime I can. The towels are rarely in reach of late—almost as though Mom doesn't want me to practice my folding.

Of course the elation of having a chance to try again required me to display my joy with loud vocalizations, crab-walking and parading till the whole household is aware I am once again a true blue (red) Golden Retriever.

Now I will also admit that in my attempt at any folding of fabric, there is the chance that sometimes, well often, my canines get caught and some slight tearing can (okay, does) occur. Which is probably why Mom dropped everything to intercept me and the quarry in my mouth.

Truth be told, I relish the attention and wag in joy as Mom returns the towel, sock, underwear, pillowcase, or blanket to its proper place.

With mouth empty and seeing that the rain wasn't going to end soon, there was no point in trying to get Mom to look at her cloth rectangle to prognosticate the duration of this current weather situation.

When I get disappointed at how a day is unfolding, the best place to go is the big bedroom. Mom had drawn the curtains wide open and pointed the fan across the bed. Hazel, Tuck and Pru had already staked out their territory and were watching the wind and rain with sporadic yawning.

There was only one thing a retriever girl could do when faced with this situation.

"Move over, Hazel."

~Keira Bear



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Contests start at 11AM



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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 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. 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.

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- 4H SCHOOLING SHOW, Aug 8, 9am.
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SUNSET RANCH OBSTACLE COURSE CLINIC & COMPETITION. Aug 22-23. With Megan Bennett at Horses with Heart in Chino Valley. Register: sunsetranch.us or call 602-565-1514

HERITAGE PARK ZOO

- AUG 15,21,29 ZooLittles
- AUG 15 Wet & Wild Day
- AUG 22 Evening with Clouded Leopards
- AUG 28 Zoo by Moonlight/ Members FREE Night

- SEP 5 ZooLittles
- SEP 5 After Dark at the Park (Adult)
- SEP 12 Breakfast with Black Bear s
- SEP 19 Sip & Paint (Adult)
- SEP 26 Zoo by Moonlight



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
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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
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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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Who Rescued Who? What Foster Dogs Teach Us

By Jennifer Leigh Baker

About a year after grieving the loss of our 17-year-old bonded beagles, we decided to become first-time foster parents with United Animal Friends. Our first foster, Liberty, was the perfect dog for us to learn with—and from.

Libby taught us that rescue isn't about having all the answers. It's about showing up, staying open, and trusting the journey.

Found as a pregnant stray on a New Mexico reservation, she was cared for by kind hospital employees while living on her own. After having her puppies, she came to UAF with them.

After weaning her pups, Libby needed a foster home. When we decided to open our home for the first time, she was the dog they felt could be a good fit for us—and we said yes.

We had no idea what our first fostering experience would teach us, let alone each foster who followed.

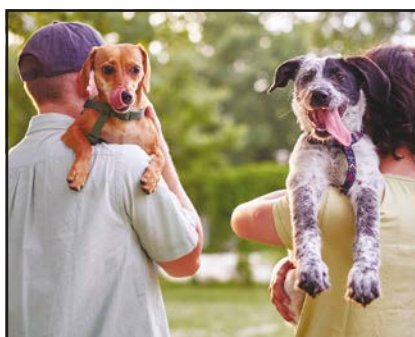
Libby's first lesson for us was simple: seek to understand. She was afraid of the world. Anything and everything spooked her. Libby frequently froze in place during walks—sometimes right in the middle of the road. Our first rule was practice patience. Even when we didn't understand her why in these moments, she reminded us that healing happens on its own timeline, not ours.

Over the next six months, we worked to keep her calm while she underwent treatment for heartworm. Due to her condition, she couldn't be spayed right away. Two weeks before what we hoped would be her final treatment, she went into heat. Another lesson emerged: just when we thought we had things figured out, there was always something new to learn.

People often ask us how we could foster without becoming foster fails. We came close with Libby but held to the promise to ourselves that if we could help more animals find loving homes, we'd leave this world a little better than we found it. Especially for animals who had experienced trauma, neglect, or abandonment.

When the perfect family came along for Libby, I cried all day while preparing to take her to them. But the moment I walked into their home and saw how quickly they loved her—and how quickly she loved them—my tears stopped.

Libby taught me that fostering isn't about me. That lesson in selflessness helped me say a loving, tearful good-



bye and send her off with love and light to her forever home.

While Libby was still with us, we welcomed Mimi, thinking Libby could use a friend and Mimi needed someone to look up to. Mimi is the sweetest puppy-energy girl you'd ever meet, while Libby carried more of a young-mom energy. Naturally, we thought they'd be perfect together. They had other ideas.

Libby tolerated Mimi, but it became clear she was ready for her next chapter. Once again, these pups reminded us that they get a vote too.

Libby taught us patience and understanding. Mimi taught us that every animal comes with their own personality and preferences. Together, they showed us that fostering isn't about changing animals. It's about creating a safe place for them to land while discovering how much they teach us along the way as they learn what it means to be part of a family.

One of the greatest surprises of fostering has been rediscovering joy in the smallest moments: porch-time watching birds, the excitement of a newly discovered stick, and lots and lots of kisses every day.

For many rescue animals, everyday experiences are brand new: a cozy bed, a safe home, a walk without fear. Watching them discover these things reminds us not to take our own lives for granted.

People often ask if fostering is hard. It is. There are goodbyes, uncertainties, and moments when your heart feels stretched in ways you didn't expect. But there is also laughter, growth, connection, and the privilege of helping an animal take the next step toward the life they deserve.

Sometimes the greatest gift of fostering isn't just the life we help save—it's how much your own lives and hearts expands in the process.

And now, we've welcomed our third foster—Cowboy. Woohoo! He's Mimi's best friend. Buckle up, this guy is a load of energy...



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WHO RESCUE WHO? WHAT FOSTER DOGS TEACH US



A Plea for Squeaky

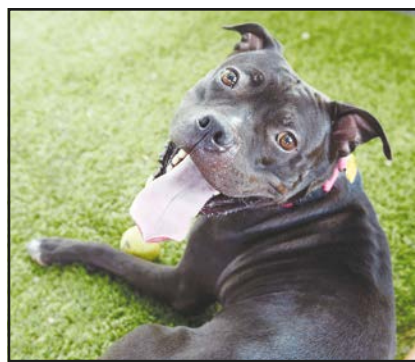
Two years in a shelter for any dog is just heartbreaking. But Squeaky is the kind of dog who, despite what life throws at him, will keep smiling. He is an amazing, sweet, funny, goofy boy who deserves a home and a chance of having a happy life.

At the Humane Society of Sedona (HSS), we have amazing volunteers who help our animals in many ways. Getting our animals out the shelter for a day or two—especially our long stay residents—is simply invaluable. Allowing them a break from the overstimulating shelter environment can do wonders to lighten their mood and brighten their spirits.

We're so lucky to have an incredible volunteer who has taken Squeaky under her wing. Kristi has taken him on numerous field trips and sleepovers and has learned so much about our handsome guy we love so much. We're going to share her thoughts with you.

"Calling out to Staffy (Staffordshire Terrier/Pitbull) lovers. If you have had a Staffy before and you're a strong leader, you just might have the perfect sidekick in Squeaky. Squeaky is a very special boy who needs a home. He has been at the Humane Society of Sedona for over two years.

"As a volunteer, I've worked with him and fostered him. He is smart, loving, entertaining, and wants to be your shadow. He loves dog videos, couch surfing, practicing his commands (come, sit, lay down, wait, break), playing in water, and trail hikes (two to three miles). He is crushed if you don't let him cuddle and sleep under the covers with you. He's obsessed



with soft squeaky toys, so you'll need a few to start off.

"I've fostered Squeaky dozens of times, and he appears to be potty trained. I have a doggie door to the backyard, and he's comfortable using it. I set boundaries for him in the house, letting him know which rooms he can and cannot be in. He understood from the start.

"Squeaky belongs in a household that has a fenced yard. He should be the only pet as he has shown to be dog reactive, and the HSS staff and volunteers have worked with him to redirect this tendency. His new owner can be shown the commands and actions needed to switch Squeaky's focus from other dogs to rewards and affection.

"I am writing this message because I know how badly he needs a home and what a great dog he can be. I also know that he needs a special person that understands his breed. There is much to say about him, and I'd be happy to share all that I know with whomever adopts him."

We can't begin to express our gratitude to Kristi for not only giving Squeaky a break from the shelter, but also getting the chance to truly know him. Animals are so different outside of the shelter. Allowing them to unwind and be themselves lets us understand what kind of family and home would be best for them.

Sometimes dogs are just misunderstood. Sometimes their breed comes with a label that is hard to overcome, despite their individual personalities. We fear Squeaky has fallen victim to these stereotypes despite being a playful, affectionate, and vivacious companion. We thank everyone who has been championing Squeaky over the past two years, but we need more help.

We need YOUR help. Please share Squeaky's plea with everyone you know. Show his photo, tell his story. The more people who see him,

the better chance he has of finding the home he's been waiting for. If you or someone you know might be the right fit to either foster or adopt, please get in touch with at the Humane Society of Sedona at 928-282-4679. You could be the one to change his life.



Charlie's Full Circle Miracle: Lost Dog Reunites with Owner Seven Years After Disappearing

By Cindy Lamont, Founder, Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary

I've learned in dog rescue that life often comes full circle in ways that are hard to explain. Charlie is one of those stories.

A year ago, Charlie—then known as River—was sitting on the euthanasia list at Maricopa County Animal Care & Control in Phoenix. He had been picked up as a stray and not claimed. Technically, he was considered a senior dog, but at Dogtree Pines we primarily focus on the super seniors, usually dogs over 10 years old and preferably 12 and older. But Charlie was out of time and out of options. We were his only hope.

He was scheduled for euthanasia because he had a large mass under his tongue and another on his throat. No one knew exactly what they were, but otherwise he appeared healthy. With a foster home lined up in the valley, we agreed to take him and get him the help he desperately needed.

What followed was weeks of veterinary visits and a lot of unanswered questions. To be honest, we never completely figured out what was wrong. The best explanation was that Charlie had some sort of foreign body lodged beneath his tongue that had caused a severe abscess, along with the swelling on his neck. Whatever it was, it was affecting his ability to eat and drink, and he was losing weight rapidly.

We worked with Kierland Animal Clinic in Scottsdale, a veterinary office we had never used before. The veterinarians there were incredible.

They refused to give up on him. They performed X-rays. Nothing. They performed ultrasounds. Nothing. They even flushed fluorescent dye into the wound trying to identify the source of the problem. Finally, after nearly three weeks and one last aggressive flushing of the wound, Charlie began to improve. The abscess under his tongue shrank. The swelling on his neck disappeared. We suspect there may have been something as simple as a tiny piece of stick buried deep in the tissue that was finally flushed out. Whatever it was, Charlie recovered.

A few weeks later, Charlie found what we believed was his forever home. The adoption seemed perfect. The adopter was someone our foster, Noel, already knew, and Charlie had even spent time there previously. The transition was easy and we re-

ceived positive reports. Then six months passed without much communication.

On Memorial Day weekend, everything changed. At 3:32 PM on a Sunday, I received a message from Dr. Wilson at Lovet Pet Health Care in Glendale. They had

a dog named River who had been dropped off to be euthanized. My heart sank!

The veterinarian had scanned River for a microchip before proceeding and was surprised when Dogtree Pines appeared as the registered contact. Something about the situation didn't feel right to her, so she reached out to us immediately.

I called the clinic, expecting them to be closed, but instead I reached the veterinarian herself. She told me the dog had been dropped off, the bill had been paid, and the people had practically run out of the building. They didn't want to be present for the euthanasia. They simply said the dog had become aggressive.

Dr. Wilson trusted her instincts. She agreed to hold Charlie overnight, and first thing the next morning we drove down and brought him back to Dogtree Pines. Just like the veterinary staff in Glendale, we saw absolutely no signs of aggression toward people or dogs.

I contacted the adopter and asked if he knew his dog had been dropped off to be euthanized. His response was simple: "No, I was not aware of that." That was about the extent of the conversation. A day later, I



reached out again. Surely, he would want to know what had happened to his dog. Instead, he replied that someone had been watching Charlie, Charlie became aggressive, and the person dropped him off to be euthanized. End of conversation. No concern. No questions. No follow-up. Nothing.

The frustrating part is that our adoption contract specifically states that if an adopter can no longer keep a dog for any reason, the dog comes back to Dogtree Pines—no questions asked. We even offer to pick them up to make it easy.

I could say much more about that situation, but I'll leave it there and move on to the good part of Charlie's story.

A few weeks later, Charlie was healthy, thriving, and ready for adoption once again. Our veterinarian confirmed he was in excellent health. We listed him on social media and then took him to Woofstock in Prescott Valley.

I wasn't there personally because things at the sanctuary were busy, but we had an incredible group of volunteers representing Dogtree Pines. One of our favorites, JohnTex, was handling Charlie. John was walking Charlie around the event, and they passed a booth for a window company. They had already walked by when the woman working the booth called out, "Boo!"

Charlie stopped. He turned around. He walked directly to her. Then he lifted his paw for a shake. The woman burst into tears.

Her name is Lily. She explained that seven years earlier, her dog—Boogie Bear—had been stolen while being watched by a friend. She never saw him again. For seven years she searched. For seven years she hoped. She is the one who had taught Boogie Bear to shake.

What are the odds? Her dog disappeared from Chino Valley. Charlie was picked up near Glendale and I-17 in Phoenix. My skeptical side said there was no way, but then Lily started sending baby photos of Boo. The puppy photos looked re-

markably similar to Charlie with the same facial markings. The timeline fit perfectly. We estimated Charlie to be around seven to eight years old. Lily said Boogie Bear had been stolen when he was approximately six months old—about seven years ago.

Will we ever know with 100% certainty? Probably not. But I'd like to think miracles happen. After all, miracles are kind of our thing around here. We've seen dogs riddled with cancer live amazing lives for years. We've watched tumors disappear. We've seen dogs that can't walk upon arrival not only walk, but run again, and virtually all reverse in aging like Benjamin Button.

I've stopped trying to explain all of it. I just know it happens. And that brings me back to something I've noticed over and over again at Dogtree Pines—the Circle of Life. Every time we lose one of our sanctuary dogs, another arrives with remarkably similar traits.

It's almost as if the dogs we've loved and lost somehow know there's a wonderful home waiting here and send another soul in need to take their place. It sounds crazy but I've seen it happen too many times to ignore. Now Charlie has come full circle, or perhaps I should say Boogie Bear has come full circle.

This week, Boogie Bear went home with Lily right here in Prescott. His journey took him from a stolen puppy, to a lost dog, to an undiagnosed injury, to the euthanasia list, to an adoption, back from the brink of euthanasia again, and somehow back into the arms of the person who never stopped looking for him.

Boogie Bear has quite a story to tell. I only wish he could tell us what really happened during those missing years.

What I do know is that we saved him from being euthanized a year ago. We saved him again last month and somehow, against all odds, a dog and his person found each other again at an adoption event in Prescott. Go figure.

Go live your BEST life, Boogie Bear. You are a perfect example of why

we do what we do.

So the next time someone tells you miracles don't happen, come visit Dogtree Pines. Miracles happen here every day. They are what carry us through the difficult moments and remind us why we keep going even when the going gets tough.

Stories like Boogie Bear's don't happen without a community of people who believe every dog deserves a chance. From the foster who opened their home, to the veterinarians who refused to give up, to the volunteers and everyone at Woofstock, it took all of us working together to make this miracle possible.

If you'd like to help us continue saving senior dogs like Boogie Bear, please consider supporting Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary. Your donations help provide medical care, food, shelter, and second chances for dogs who have nowhere else to go. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us create more happy endings and more miracles.

To support our mission and the dogs of Dogtree Pines, please visit our website at dogtreepines.com and make a donation today.

Follow our amazing stories on Facebook and Instagram. Together, we can keep giving senior dogs the love, care, and futures they deserve.



The nothing-special dogs did not steer their fosters out of burning buildings or pull a child out of a raging river. They did not win blue ribbons in the show ring, and they did not show herculean skills in agility trials.

But the nothing-special dogs do have a story to tell, if we stop and listen.



The Reservation dogs have shown a resilience and determination that should inspire us all. Truth be known, they are just waiting in the wings for their opportunity to shine.

Cammie, a fawn-and-brown cattle dog mix, is a pillar of resilience. She was dumped with her young siblings out in open range land and had to quickly learn to survive.

When kindhearted people discovered the stray puppies, they were able to coax all but her to the safety of their car. Then she had to survive on her own.

When a compassionate animal control officer and a rescuer were able to trap her, she could then slowly acclimatize to a more civilized lifestyle including proper vetting. Then she was moved to a second experienced foster to step up her learning skills with other dogs and cats and urban life.

Is her story dramatic or heroic? Maybe not. Maybe it's just starting to unfold. With an adopter, she can offer a steady loyalty that will make someone's life a little less overwhelming.

Cooper, a striking white shepherd mix, is the spirit of determination. The start of his story is less known, but he was found to be a young adult, having survived as a reservation stray.

A kind Dine woman saw his plight and offered him shelter and a chance to resolve a serious infection. He was provided with treatment and proper vetting as well as kindness and a reason to trust.

While Cooper is four years old, he's still an active, happy boy and loves other dogs. Does he have a headline story to tell? Maybe not, but he's waiting to be a celebrity in a new owner's life.

Both of these dogs, and many more who need homes, can be found on Blackhat's website: blackhathumanesociety.org.

The nothing-special homeless animals may not come into the world

Airpark Animal Hospital



Dr. Celeste Flannery

515 Airpark Rd., Suite #103

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

(928) 649-8387 • www.AirparkAnimalHospital.com

with striking tales. But their stories are still unfolding. By giving these dogs a chance, you might find their devotion to you is just magic enough.

You will be saving a precious life, but you may also find a faithful loyalty that can turn nothing special into a magical love story.



Parvo Increases Across Native American Reservations But New Treatment Saves Lives

In the last year, cases of Canine Parvovirus (Parvo) have exploded across the Four Corners area of the Native American reservations we serve at Underdog Rescue. One animal hospital in Arizona reported a 250% increase in cases this spring, compared to the same period last year. We're seeing these cases at our monthly clinics and in the surrendered dogs we accept.



Parvo is endemic in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. It stays in the soil for up to a year, and it's resistant to both heat and freezing temperatures. A large percentage of people in our four states live in homes without fencing. Areas are prone to flash flooding that washes the virus across wider areas. It's a devastating foe. In the past, Parvo was almost always fatal.

But there's good news. There's a new miracle drug that's 90% effective in treating Parvo in puppies. It is called Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibodies (CPMA). Underdog has been using it at our shelter since its provisional approval by the FDA in 2023, and it's truly a gamechanger. In the time we've been using it to treat surrendered puppies, we've only lost one.

In the past several months, we've also begun using it for sick puppies at our monthly spay, neuter, vaccine, and veterinary clinics on the reservations.

The only problem is that it's VERY expensive: \$231 per vial. One vial treats one small puppy (up to 11 pounds) or offers two small puppies post-exposure protection. Treatment is a one-time IV dose. For bigger

puppies, we must use multiple vials of this life-saving treatment. We're spending thousands on it.

Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation in Moab, is determined that any Parvo-positive puppies we see will have access to this life-changing treatment. Sandalwood and Oyster, for example, were surrendered to Underdog Rescue and within a few days, they tested positive for Parvo. With the new CPMA treatment, they survived the disease and have now found their forever homes.

Please visit us at underdogrescue-moab.org to donate and help save future lives.



We want to thank Cherie and the Prescott Dog first for ordering in an almost perfect weather day for Woofstock and, second, for giving our rescue and others the chance to showcase our adoptables. We made some new friends and saw a few alumni.

Sharing Sedona's Story

In rescue, we celebrate every adoption, but some are just more special.

Sedona arrived at AARF in 2021 with her brother and mom. They had been living outdoors in the valley, weren't allowed into the house, were only let out of the yard to eat, and had gotten little attention. Needless to say, they were pretty shy for the first week.

Soon they realized they had comfortable beds, daily feedings, and staff and volunteers that loved them.

Once Sedona trusted, she looked forward to her daily walkabouts, playing with her brother Dewey and stealing his toys, but was still a bit shy meeting new people. Five years passed, and no one called about adopting: we thought she would be one of our sanctuary residents.

Even though our mission and ultimate goal in taking any dog is to find them that perfect home, we were just fine with her staying at AARF, for we all loved her. Then, in April, a lady called looking for a small lap-dog companion.



She first asked about another pup, Cotton. When she arrived, we explained that Cotton wasn't really much of a lap dog, although very sweet, and we suggested Sedona. The lady was fine with that, so we brought Sedona up for a meet and greet. When we introduced her, it was love at first sight for both.

Sedona didn't shy away as she often did, but jumped onto the couch to greet the lady. We sat and talked for a bit, going over everything Sedona had been through, then the lady took Sedona for a short walk. Decision made: this was the companion she had been searching for.

Now in her new home, Sedona's mom is in love with our little girl who was so often overlooked. She told us they go for their daily walks and share the couch together to enjoy their favorite TV shows. "She is the best companion."

Happy tails, Sweet Sedona. You waited so long and we are so happy for you. There is some one for every dog. It just takes a while some times.



Our story began as with an animal search and rescue. That's where our heart is. Our founder, Katrina, began her calling assisting with the rescue of one single lost dog. We now are a non profit organization who's mission is to search, rescue, heal, foster and adopt the many puppies and dogs that are in need in Arizona. Since 2019, over 2000 high risk dogs have been saved. We've rescued pregnant mama dogs abandoned in the elements, puppies that were dumped and forgotten, and found cherished lost pets. It's a 24 hour, 7 days a week endeavor, and we could not do the important work

we do without the support of the community.

There are many pieces to the complex puzzle of our organization. We start with the search and rescue. You never sleep. You must be ready to go out and help with finding a stray dog, or a lost pet at a moment's notice. It's lots of hours of waiting, watching and hoping the pup will come to the area you last saw him, and go into the feeding station. And you never know their condition. Once caught, most pups will require medical attention, and lots of love and reassurance. As they are scared and some have been out in the elements trying to survive for a time. We have a caring and experienced team that, through their efforts, bring these forgotten souls into a safe and warm environment.

Fostering. Probably the most difficult part, as there are so many dogs that need fosters, and we can't find all the fosters we need. More pups coming in everyday. There is no glamour to this job. It's some sleepless nights, cleaning up pee and poop and working with the pups constantly. But there is no greater reward than having that pup find the best home and knowing that you played an important part in making that happen.

Pups come with so many different situations and backgrounds. But the common thread is that they all need love and a sense of security. That is what our fosters give and what we are looking for. We have an amazing team of volunteers that give their time and homes to help give these pups an amazing start to their new lives.

And then there is adoption. The end for us as a rescue, but the beginning of a new life for these pups. Through the efforts of wonderful events like Woofstock held in Prescott Valley, our pups get out there and get socialized so they can meet their future families. This amazing community event helps to introduce and educate the public to animal rescue and how we can all play a part in helping to save these precious pup's lives.

The fosters have worked with them and given them the basic skills so they can now start their happy ever after in their new homes. All the hard work from rescue to foster to adoption has now come full circle. There is nothing like the love of a rescue. They are the best dogs, loyal, loving. But I bet you already know that. Please consider adoption as your best option for your next dog. And we are always looking for volunteers to help us continue our mission to save lives.



More Than a Shelter: Keeping Pets and People Together

For many people, Yavapai Humane Society (YHS) is the place where homeless animals wait for a second chance. And while helping pets find loving homes is one of the most visible parts of our mission, it's far from the whole story.

Every day, we work alongside pet owners to help keep families together through programs that support pets and the people who love them. From lifesaving medical care and temporary emergency housing to pet food assistance, future planning, and compassionate end-of-life services, our goal is simple: to keep pets healthy, safe, and where they belong... at home.

At YHS, we believe that caring for animals also means caring for the people who love them.

Safety Net Program

Life can change in an instant.

A medical emergency, unexpected hospitalization, domestic violence situation, military deployment, house fire, or temporary housing crisis can leave pet owners facing an impossible decision. Too often, people believe surrendering a beloved companion is their only option.

Our Safety Net Program was created to prevent that heartbreak.

The program provides temporary care for pets while their owners work through difficult circumstances. Whether someone is recovering from surgery, escaping an unsafe situation, or simply trying to get back on their feet, they can have peace of mind knowing their pet is safe, loved, and cared for until they can be reunited.

It's a program built on hope. Rather than losing a cherished member of the family forever, pet owners are given something invaluable... time. Time to heal. Time to recover. Time to look forward to coming home to the pet who never stopped waiting for them.

Second Chance Medical Program

A medical diagnosis can be heart-breaking for any pet owner. It becomes even more overwhelming when the treatment that could save a beloved companion is simply out of reach financially. Our Second Chance Medical Program was creat-

ed for families facing that difficult reality.

When a pet has a loving home but their owner cannot afford a necessary surgery, medical procedure, or specialized treatment, this program helps provide the medical care needed to give that animal another chance at a healthy life. No one should have to choose between their pet's well-being and their family's financial stability.

Through the expertise and compassion of our Clinic Team and Veterinary staff, along with the generosity of donors who believe every animal deserves quality medical care, we're able to provide treatments that might otherwise be financially impossible for many families. By removing that barrier, we're able to keep beloved pets where they belong... at home with the people who love them.

The impact reaches far beyond the medical procedure itself. It keeps beloved pets with the families who already love them, it prevents unnecessary surrender to a shelter and, it gives people hope during some of life's most difficult moments.

Every pet deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life, and every family deserves the chance to keep the companion who has become part of their heart. Through our Second Chance Medical Program, we're able to make that possible—one family, one pet, and one second chance at a time.

Community Pet Food Pantry

Sometimes the difference between keeping a pet and surrendering one is simply a bag of pet food.

Families throughout our community occasionally experience financial hardship due to job loss, illness, rising costs, or unexpected expenses. During these difficult times, feeding a beloved pet can become another overwhelming challenge. Our Community Pet Food Pantry helps bridge that gap.

Each month, we provide food and basic pet supplies to families who need assistance, allowing them to care for their pets while navigating life's challenges. The impact extends far beyond filling a food bowl. It keeps pets in their homes. It reduces unnecessary shelter admissions. It eases financial stress for families.



Most importantly, it preserves the incredible bond between people and the animals who depend on them. Sometimes compassion begins with something as simple as a bag of kibble.

Pet Guardianship Program

Planning for the future isn't always easy, but it is one of the greatest gifts we can give those we love... including our pets.

Our Pet Guardianship Program offers peace of mind for people who want to ensure their companion animals will always be cared for, even if they are no longer able to provide that care themselves.

Whether due to illness, disability, or passing away, life can change unexpectedly. By making arrangements in advance, pet owners know their wishes will be honored and their beloved companions will receive the care, love, and attention they deserve.

It's a promise that no pet will be left without someone to advocate for them. For many families, that reassurance means everything.

Serenity House

One of the most difficult decisions any pet owner will ever face is saying goodbye. While it is one of the hardest moments in loving an animal, it can also be one of the most meaningful.

Serenity House was created to provide a peaceful, private space where families can spend those final moments together with comfort, dignity, and compassion. Instead of saying goodbye in a busy clinical setting, families are surrounded by warmth, quiet, and understanding as they honor the unconditional love they shared with their cherished companion.

It is a place created not only for animals, but for the people whose hearts are forever changed by loving them. Because every pet deserves a peace-

ful goodbye, and every family deserves compassion during one of life's most difficult moments.

Legacy of Love

For many supporters, helping animals is more than a one-time gift. It is a life-long commitment.

Our Legacy of Love program allows compassionate individuals to make

a lasting difference through planned giving. By including YHS in their estate plans, supporters help ensure that future generations of animals continue to receive shelter, medical care, compassion, and hope.

These gifts create an enduring legacy that extends far beyond a single lifetime. Long after they are gone, their kindness continues to provide second chances, keep families together, and save lives. It is one final act of generosity that continues to make an extraordinary impact.

Every Program Tells a Story

At YHS, every program exists for one simple reason... because every animal matters, and every family matters.

Whether we're providing temporary shelter through Safety Net, lifesaving treatment through Second Chance Medical, helping a family feed their pet through our Community Pet Food Pantry, planning for a pet's future through Pet Guardianship, offering comfort at Serenity House, or ensuring tomorrow's animals are cared for through Legacy of Love, each program reflects our commitment to compassion.

So, like I said at the beginning, for many people, YHS is just the place where homeless animals wait for a second chance, perhaps that's one of the biggest misconceptions about Yavapai Humane Society. While we will **always** be here for animals waiting for a home, some of our greatest successes are the pets who never need to come through our doors at all.

Through compassion, support, and community, we're helping families stay together, giving animals the care they deserve, and strengthening the bond between people and their pets. Because sometimes the best second chance isn't finding a new home... It's helping a beloved pet stay in the one they already have.



BEETLE: 7mo male Australian Cattle Dog mix. He's an adorable puppy with a big personality and an even bigger heart. He is excited to bond with his forever family with devotion and loyalty. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



PICKLES: An 8-month-old female pup with a big personality and an even bigger heart. She's full of playful energy and eager to learn. She loves cuddles and making people smile. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-2679



COOPER: Male 3yo Border Collie mix, brown with white trim. Playful, fun, curious, patient, friendly, very intelligent, and a pleasure to be around. Knows basic commands, walks well on a leash. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



HANK: An 18-month-old male mixed breed with a great curled tail. He is playful, active, friendly, and enjoys being with people. I am full of joy, hope, curiosity, and puppy charm. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



MABEL: 6mo mixed breed female puppy of an unusual color. She is a bundle of joy with a wagging tail. She loves playing fetch and learning new tricks. She is also the best cuddle buddy. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



NALA: 4yo female Catahoula Leopard Dog mix. Sweet & loving w/a big heart and an adventurous spirit. Thrives on walks, hikes, and games. The perfect companion for an active family. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4670



GEMSTONE: 2yo female tricolor mixed breed. She's a playful puppy with a smile that will light up your heart. She enjoys being outside, playing fetch, cuddling, and getting belly rubs. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



SNICKERS: A 4-year-old female mixed breed who weighs 44 pounds. She is located at the Butler Campus. High Country Humane 928-526-1076



BUTCH: Distinguished 12yo brindle & white Chihuahua, 12 lbs. The perfect lap-sized companion. A loyal, seasoned buddy who'll settle in nicely with you. High Country Humane Contact my foster by TEXT at 928-316-6742



LIAM: A 6-month-old male mixed breed puppy. He is charming, plays hard, and sleeps well. Doing well at potty training. Lives with other dogs. Loves to play. High Country Humane. Contact his foster at (928) 699-3871



CAMILLA: 6mo black mixed breed puppy. Has an independent streak with a playful side, and loves having other dogs around to chase and run with. She is easygoing with lower energy vibes. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



MAPLE: A 2-year-old female mixed breed. For more information, please contact the High Country Humane Society at 928-526-0742



GOGGLES: 5mo male Cattle Dog mix who weighs ~30 lbs. He is full of puppy energy and loves people. Would love someone to snuggle with. High Country Humane Society/Contact my foster by TEXT at (928) 366-0949



LOVEY: A 2-year-old male brindle Coonhound mix who weighs 57 pounds. If you're looking for a young, energetic companion, come meet Lovey and let's see if you're a match. High Country Humane Society 928-526-9742



EEYORE: A mixed breed male puppy w/puppy energy, curiosity, and zoomies. If you've been looking for a new adventure buddy with a cute face and a big personality, you should meet. Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



CAMMIE: Fawn & brown 1yo Cattle Dog mix. Good w/other dogs & cats; would love another dog to play with. BlackHat Humane Society blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-607-6007



HELENA: 2yo female German Shepherd, ~54 lbs. Affectionate, active, highly intelligent. Will thrive w/family committed to training, exercise, enrichment, appropriate management. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



PRINCESS PEACH: 1yo Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix, only 35 lbs. She would love to find a loyal companion to show her a new world of friendship. BlackHat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942



STITCH: 8yo male French Bulldog, ~25 lbs. He's a funny, low-key companion who believes naps are an art form. He loves going for leisurely walks and making sure you're never lonely., Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



HARMONY: 2yo Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix, ~35 lbs. She is a big furry hug. Likes other dogs. Frisky for a good hike but then settles quickly to relax. BlackHat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or 928-899-3942



HERCULES: A young adult male mixed breed with a face that's hard to resist. He is a happy, energetic guy who loves to play, explore, and make my humans laugh. Also loves cuddles. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



LINK: 1yo Australian cattle dog w/ some hound in mix. His medium energy level with his medium size is perfect for a fun companion. Easy to train. BlackHat Humane Society at blackhathumanesociety.org or elmorromaynes@gmail.com



JASPER: 8yo white Samoyed-like mixed breed. Affectionate and sassy. Enjoys being around people. Walks nicely on a leash and enjoys strolling around the neighborhood. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



CYRUS: 1yo male Australian Cattle Dog mix. Active & athletic. He is friendly, curious, calm, and good with other dogs and cats. Is very good at agility. BlackHat Humane Society/Toby at 4lvdch@gmail.com or text 928-899-3942



SCRUNCHIE: Adult male, 60-lb. boy w/ big personality. Active, affectionate dog enjoying playtime, exercise & spending time w/people. Eligible for the Pets for Patriots program. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



TAKIS: 18mo Australian Cattle Dog/Blue Heeler mix. Smart, independent, loyal, playful, loves people. Good w/other dogs & cats. Active, loves walks. BlackHat Humane Society/foster mom 928-607-1000 or susanbigley@hotmail.com



LYCAN: Mixed breed male puppy. Sweet & energetic. Will grow to weigh around 50 lbs. Loves to play. He's looking for active adopters who will provide training and attention. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



JINGLE: 9mo Cattle Dog/Lab mix. Friendly playful boy w/sweet nature. Good w/ other dogs & cats. Would love owner who'd nurture his curious, willing personality. BlackHat Humane Society/foster Toby at 928-899-3842 or 4lvdch@gmail.com

A Summer Kind of Love

By Kay & Shadow Luckett

If you ask Summer Alston what comes first—cats or love—there may not be a definitive reply. It appears that they could be one and the same.

Now a resident of Santa Fe, Summer was raised in Houston with dogs. She got her first cat over 30 years ago. With a master's degree in social work, Summer's open and friendly personality encompasses both empathy and compassion. This gets her top grades for dealing with both fur babies and human people.

Summer's dad was a psychiatrist, and perhaps that type of family background encouraged her career choice. She worked as a mental health professional/probation officer in San Francisco and Northern California until her retirement. She describes working with and caring for the mentally ill offenders by saying, "But for the Grace of God, there go I".

After reading *Animal Liberation* by Peter Singer, her heart opened. She realized that because she loved all animals, her current Vegan lifestyle would be forever. She has a talent for veggie stir-fries, and her food plan is in keeping with her spiritual practices.

Summer started volunteering with Persian cat rescues and ended up with two full-grown Himalayan littermates named Hanna and Scout. Happy and sad, as these stories go, Hanna died of a stroke in Summer's laundry basket while Scout lived a full life until old age.

Northern California became too expensive and too congested for this animal lover, so off to New Mexico she moved. She continues to enjoy the open spaces, majestic mountains, and her many like-minded pals.

A few years ago, after her aged soul-kitty Noah crossed the Rainbow Bridge, Summer says, "I can mourn and cry for a year and then get a cat, or I can just get a cat".

She ended up getting many cats when she started fostering for Felines & Friends, a non-profit in San Francisco, and explains that the reason she volunteered was simply because they needed fosters. She has participated in many massive rescues with various humane societies in the United States.

Her first foster was a tabby named Jack who was "the best cat ever." After spending six weeks under the kitchen and bathroom cabinets, he suddenly blossomed and was ready for the next phase of his cat life.

Jack went to a loving home, and Summer will always refer to his "under-sink apartment" as his first abode. Many cats were lucky to be fostered in Summer's own abode. She remem-



Sweet Mellow Stash

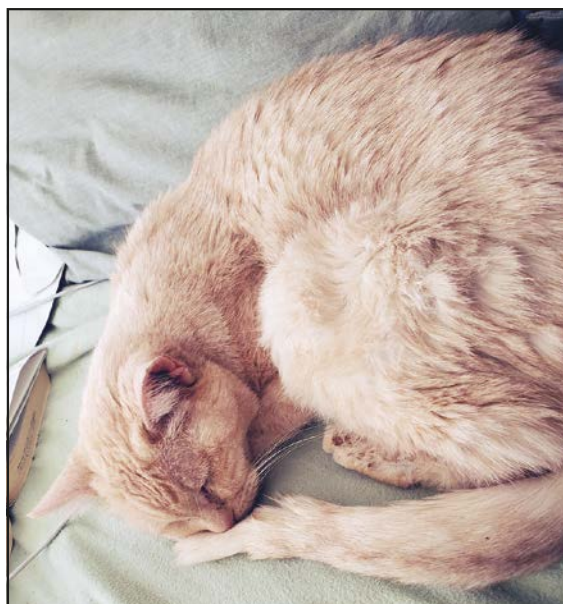
bers all their names, talking about each as if, one-by-one, they left pawprints on her heart.

Incorporating her vast feline experience, Summer talked about two precious babies named Peaches and Chapman. These she describes as very tough on the spirit because they were both hospice fosters. Summer loved Peaches and described her as a special being who was a tiny girl before she passed peacefully. That was what she loved so much about these hospice babies: they were "vulnerable and sweet".



Meet Miss Blair. Is she to be the new sister?

Chapman was a full-time job—a medical foster with active kidney disease that Summer and the vets helped with IV fluid treatments. Even though his life was enhanced and prolonged, after nine months, he finally declined. When asked her opinion of these treatments,



Peaches in Hospice



Noah was Summer's Soul Kitty

she agreed with the vets that they do help quite a bit even though sadly there is an end.

Although it was Summer's joy and privilege to do this, this was the end for her participating in what her friend described as "stressful fostering" while suggesting that she adopt cats of her own. That's exactly what Summer is working on at this very moment.



Bandit living the good life

Summer says she wanted a bonded pair and ended up with two males, Bandit and Stash. Bonded, yes, but as it turned out they were trauma bonded after having been rescued together. And just like misbehaving children, these boys didn't fare well and had to be separated.

Stash was a big mellow boy who did not like being teased and tormented by brother Bandit. After a huge fight, Felines and Friends rehomed Stash to a single-cat home and the word is that he's now doing well. Bandit is enjoying being the spoiled single cat... for now.

Summer is working to adopt a sister for Bandit. She hopes to find a gal who has good boundaries and won't take crap from him. And that beyond just tolerating, they will be able to be affectionate and playful together in an already tranquil home.

In the meantime, Summer loves the things that Bandit teaches her: to be in the moment, to be joyful, and—like Bandit who easily asks for what he wants—to be content with what is. This is the Summer of love, right here, right now.

When asked for her final words, Summer says, "Fostering is wonderful. Doing hospice is incredible. But adopting is everything".

Meow.



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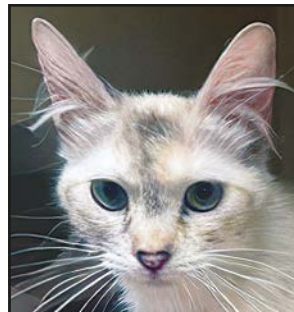
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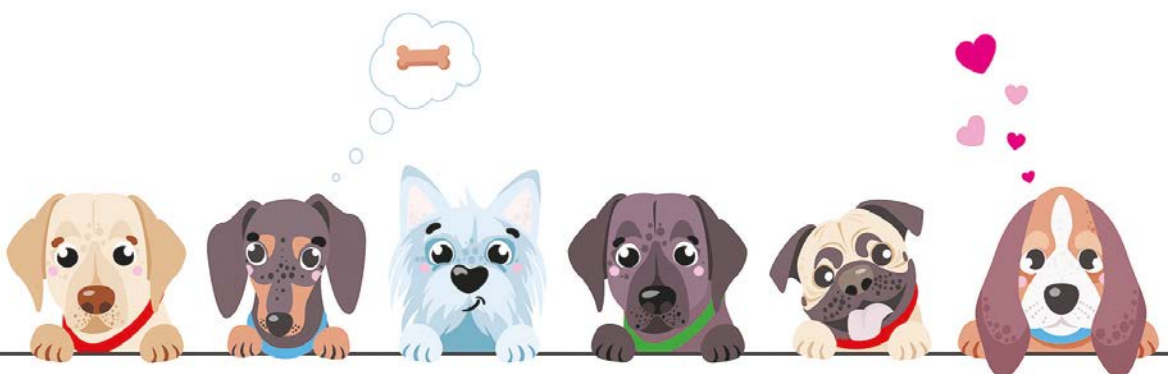


MARIA: A striking 2-year-old silver tabby female with big green eyes. She weighs 5 pounds, so she is petite. For more information, please contact the High Country Humane Society at 928-526-0742

(Cont'd on page 19)

Which Dog Group is Your Personality Based On?

By Njeri Dean



Being a part of a group is an essential part of life. When we are young, we're taught that working with others is the best way to get a job done. Especially when it comes to the workforce, people are put into jobs that match their skill sets and personality. We also find ourselves in groups in our personal lives.

Imagine your daily life. Adults usually flock to each other based on shared interests and personality similarities. That goes for kids as well. Kids want to associate with people who understand and share interests.

Group dynamics can also be related to animals, especially dogs. Since dogs have different personalities, instincts, and challenges, they're grouped into seven categories that fit their personalities and abilities. These groups are: the working group, the herding group, the hound group, the sporting group, the non-sporting group, the terrier group, and the toy group. Each group is different, but all together they shine with their different attributes.

Imagine if you were a dog. Which dog group would you fit into? Let's explore all the seven dog groups and see which group fits you the best.

The Working Group

You are always on the go. Coming up for air doesn't cross your mind, and going from one task to another is a fixation of yours. You know what you were born to do. You pursue goals and finish them to the best of your ability. Working is so

much a part of your life that you forget what matters most. Your friends and family are often left on the sidelines while your focus is on other things. Remember that life is lived once, and that once you make decisions, most of the time you cannot go back to fix them.

The Herding Group

You take charge like no other. People follow and admire you because you always know what you are doing, and you make smart choices. Nobody gets out of line or slacks off in your care. People admire your bravery and knowledge to fix complex problems. You don't hesitate to act, and you love being in charge. Some people see you as arrogant, but they know you practice what you preach.

The Hound Group

You're very calculating. Once you spot someone that you like, you go for it without anyone giving you permission. You like routine and staying inside the lines. You're so laser-focused sometimes that you don't know how to relax or let loose. You're a stickler for having people treat you with respect, and you're vocal when a line is crossed with you. People read you as a person that is wound too tight. Letting people in is a game you don't play, but you should occasionally. Being guarded is one thing but total isolation is another.

The Sporting Group

You love the great outdoors. Being a team player is what you live for. You need people around you,

and especially an audience, to feel validated and complete. Your high energy and ability to learn new things is seen as highly attractive and useful. Your eagerness to please and to feel accepted could be looked upon as a need for attention. Watch out for people who take advantage of your kindness and willingness to belong.

The Non-Sporting Group

You don't fit into a box. People can't put labels on you, and you prefer it that way. You don't fall in line with a group because you are unique. You don't like to be defined by anything. What matters on the inside is what counts for you. Walking away from somebody isn't in your mind until someone shows they can't be trusted. Your loving nature and love for misfits, no matter what they bring to the table, is your talent. You should be proud of it. Fitting in isn't always what is cracked up to be, and you would rather stand out than beg to belong.

The Terrier Group

You are highly intelligent. You need to enrich your mind, or you will go crazy. Sometimes working in a team doesn't suit you, and you are better off working alone. Companionship can be hard when you think you're the smartest one in the room. It's important to dial your energy down, and that includes your smarty pants personality. It's good to be independent sometimes, but teamwork makes the dream work. Your thirst for knowledge will always guide you to new adventures and amazing people.

The Toy Group

People often see you as the consolation prize, which is not fair. Although you don't have the purpose to lead or take charge, people look to you by confiding in you and leaning on you when times are tough. Your ability to listen to and comfort people makes you a great friend. Sometimes people need a shoulder to cry on rather than a drill sergeant. Your approachable nature makes people want to be around you. It makes you a good friend.

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(Cont'd from page 17)



SMUDGE: 8yo black female with beautiful green eyes. She is a gentle, friendly girl who loves companionship and will be your devoted shadow around the house. Loves pets and cuddles. High Country Humane 928-526-1076



DOTTY: A charming little lady who is only 6 months old. She is a light brown tabby with huge green eyes. She is very sweet and wants to bring a smile to your face. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



CAMERE: A classy lady, white with black markings. This girl is a little shy and enjoys affection. Her beautiful green eyes are a sight to behold! For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society at 928-634-7387



CLOUD: A 2-month-old black kitten with big golden eyes. He is an affectionate fluffball who loves to chat and cuddle. Loves people and follows them everywhere. A loving, loyal feline friend. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



SMITH: An elegant white with brown male tabby spots and big green eyes. Smith is 1 year, 7 months old. For more information, please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society at 928-634-7387



LUNA: A 4-year-old white medium hair female with green eyes and a heart full of love. She loves to be near her people and will be a devoted companion. She is an indoor only cat. High Country Humane 928-526-107

Living with Snakes: Our Ecosystem Allies

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

That Unmistakable Hollow Rattle

My brain instinctually clicks into triage mode—geo-locate the sound and its proximity, assess the dogs' locations and movement patterns, and strategize our safe extraction. I zero in on the source of the rattling.

Holy Guacamole! A six-foot rattlesnake fully coiled and at attention, midtrial, massive rodent halfway down her gullet.

I called out for each of the dogs to stop and stay. They were on either side of this mid-trail mama rattlesnake.

I tell you what, getting one pup to come and the other to stay simultaneously has been one of the great miracles of my time here on Earth. I tuned in my vision to spot any more snakes off-trail, ventured into the underbrush, and coaxed Mickey back down safely around the lunching serpent.

High on adrenaline, we sprinted back down to the truck, never to run that trail in the heat of the afternoon again.

It is that time of year again folks: The soil is warm, the rodents are scurrying, and the snakes are out to scoop them up. In Prescott, there are four native rattlesnake species: the Western Diamondback, Mohave, Black-tailed, and Arizona Black rattlesnakes. We also have a healthy bullsnake population that is not venomous but people confuse them with rattlers.



Safe summer trails for the four-leggers

Bullsnake vs. Rattler?

The evolutionary mimicry of bullsnakes has afforded them nearly identical protection mechanisms to those of rattlesnakes: Camouflaged skin coloring, ability to vibrate their tail against surrounding plant matter to rattle their tail, and the coil-strike posturing of rattlesnakes.

While they might seem nearly identical at quick glance, bullsnakes and rattlesnakes have some clear distinguishing factors. Bullsnakes have narrower heads than rattlers and do not have a rattle on their tail. Their tails taper, continuing their body coloring down to the tip. Importantly, bullsnakes are constrictors, and they are nonvenomous. If a bullsnake bites you, it will hurt a little but won't have any lasting impacts.



Rattlesnake head and tail identification



Bullsnake mimics rattlesnake posture. Courtesy a-z-animals.com



Bullsnake headshape



Resting bullsnake. Courtesy allofnature.blogspot.com.



A snake aware pack means more happy tails and happy trails

Rattlesnakes have a wider and rounder head with a rattle on the end of their tail. Take note that the rattle grows as the snake does, so with a young rattler it may be difficult to see or count the rattles. To identify a small or young snake, instead of looking for rattles, look for the shape: does it taper into a point like a bullsnake? Or have a round bulbous end like a rattler?

Rattlesnakes are venomous. They use poison released from their front fangs to kill their prey. This evolutionary adaptation is not targeted at the random trail passerby. It is meant to make sure these snakes can eat up all those pesky mice at your house.

They'd Rather Not Bite Us

Believe it or not, like most other wildlife, it is not a snake's preference to strike or attack. For wild animals, their survival depends on conserving energy stores. Rattlesnakes will choose to warn off predators or flee before expending the energy to attack. This is why rattlesnakes have their rattle tails, and bullsnakes mimic them. It's how they let other forest/desert friends know they are there.

But knowing this doesn't change the fact that our four-leggers are especially at risk to a rogue rattlesnake bite out in the yard, pasture, or up on the trails. Our furry friends don't always mean harm to a backyard snake. Sometimes they are curious, sometimes they are just sprinting down the trail or across pasture. But, to a snake vulnerable on the ground, our horses and dogs can be considered a threat, and they may react. So, how can we keep the snakes and our four-leggers safe this Summer? Education is key.

Education to Keep the Pack Safe

As a human, we can first learn which territories and ecosystems are home to rattlers so that we can attune our senses to keeping an eye and ear out for them. Do a little internet sleuthing and call the local ranger stations to ask which snake species live in your area and at which elevations.

Before you head out, take a moment to attune your brain and senses to notice the shapes and sounds of

rattlesnakes. When you aren't prepared to see them, you get into a hairy situation like I did.

We can also take note of the time and temperature outside. Snakes are cold-blooded (ectothermic) and get moving when the ambient temperature outside is around sixty degrees or higher—although remember that ground temperature can be much warmer than the air due to the sun warming it or lack of winds to keep it cool. Take your morning pup-walks as early as you can when it is cooler outside.

Education for our pups is essential too. Teach the furry four-leggers basic emergency commands like: stop, stay, come, and go around. These are helpful for any potential emergency, whether on trail, road, parking lot, cliff-edge, or anytime.

Snake avoidance training for the pups can be really useful too, depending on your pup of course. Betty did one course ten years ago and still won't go near a snake shed. These courses teach dogs to recognize the smells, sights, and sounds of rattlesnakes as dangerous and to avoid them.

For horses, education is also key. But unlike with the dog avoidance training, horse education is focused on acclimating them to snakes instead of association avoidance. Familiarizing them with the sounds of rattlesnakes during daily routines will help keep them calm when snakes are present, so that we can lead them back or around a snake. This keeps the snakes calm, less likely to strike our equines.

What Can I Do to Keep My Yard Rattlesnake Free?

Even in rattlesnake country, it's possible to have a relatively safe space for the pups outside. Remove any happy habitat for rattlers including rock or debris piles and water features. Keep the rodent population low to keep their food supply at a minimum. You can even build a snake-proof fence that makes it very difficult for snakes to climb over or under: one-quarter inch galvanized hardware cloth at least 36 inches high with the bottom buried six inches into the ground with top slanted out at a thirty-degree angle. There are even a few companies in Northern Arizona that will remove rattlers from your yard and take them to a healthy ecosystem away from your pups.

Don't Kill the Mouse Hunters!

While they might not be your favorite snuggle-buddy, snakes are incredible ecosystem allies. You know all of those mice scurrying around the barn or basement? One adult bullsnake eats roughly 1,000 adult mice (gophers and rats too) over its lifetime. That's one to three rodents per week. Not to mention all the smaller meals like baby mice, lizards, and frogs. Rattlesnakes, with slower metabolisms, eat less often, once every two to three weeks. But that is still about thirty rodents per year.

I get it. Rattlesnake bites and dogs or horses do not mix well. And, as the pack leaders, it is our job to keep our pack safe out there. The reality is, that with a bit of education and planning, we can live with these incredible mouse-hunters.

Until next time, happy tails and happy trails!

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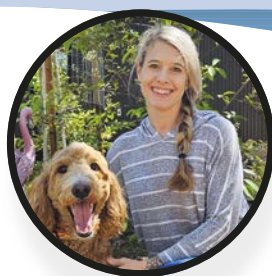
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Prepare Your Dog Before You Hit the Road

By Stacey Wittig

Traveling with your dog can be one of life's greatest adventures. Whether your next adventure is an afternoon hike in Sedona, a weekend at the Grand Canyon, or a bucket-list road trip across America, traveling with your dog can create unforgettable memories. But successful travel begins long before you pack the leash and treats.

Recently, I joined fellow members of the International Food, Wine, & Travel Writers Association (IFWTWA) for an online discussion hosted by travel writer Cori Solomon. Our guest was Susan Hartzler, author of *Peace Puppy*, who travels with her two Australian Shepherds—both actors, models, and certified therapy dogs. Together, they shared practical advice for helping dogs travel with confidence, whether by car, plane, or hotel stay. One message stood above all the rest: Know your dog.

"Travel is not one-size-fits-all," Hartzler said. Every dog has a different personality, different comfort level, and different needs. "The most important thing about traveling is to develop that bond where your dog knows you, and you know your dog. You want to make sure that they feel genuinely safe and comfortable."

That preparation often starts in the driveway. If your dog becomes anxious or carsick, don't expect them to enjoy a four-hour road trip right away. Hartzler recommends gradually introducing travel with short rides, keeping fresh air circulating, avoiding meals immediately before departure, and taking frequent breaks.

She also advises against making every car ride end at the veterinarian's office. Instead, drive somewhere fun—a park, a hiking trail, or a favorite walking path—so your dog begins to associate the car with positive experiences rather than stress.

Crate training is another investment that pays dividends while traveling. Rather than viewing the crate as confinement, Hartzler encourages owners to make it a place where good things happen. Feed meals inside, reward your dog for entering willingly, and gradually increase the amount of time they spend relaxing there. A familiar crate provides a sense of security in hotel rooms, unfamiliar homes, and airports.

If flying is in your future, preparation becomes even more important. Solomon recommends contacting your airline well before departure to learn its specific pet requirements, including health certificates and crate dimensions.

Hartzler offered an unexpected training exercise for dogs that fly in the cabin: take



Author Susan Hartzler with two Australian shepherds who are actors, models and therapy dogs.



Chloe, a Saluki, lounges in Hotel Chaco's lobby, one of the best places to stay in Albuquerque. Courtesy Cori Solomon.



Happy dog in crate. Courtesy Ayla Verschueren via Unsplash.



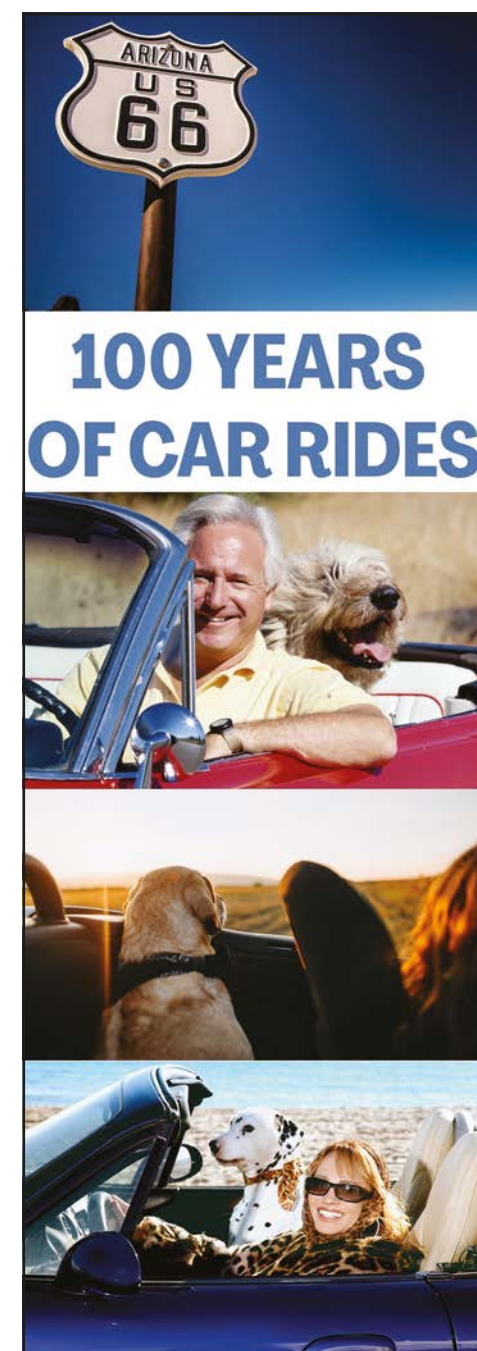
Road trippin' in comfort. Courtesy Gary Samaha via Unsplash.

them through a car wash. The unfamiliar sounds, vibrations, and movement are surprisingly similar to the sensations of takeoff and landing. By calmly rewarding your dog with treats throughout the experience, you can help build confidence before the real flight.

Whether your destination is across Arizona or across the country, remember that our dogs often mirror our emotions. If we're calm, patient, and prepared, they're much more likely to relax, too. As Hartzler reminded us, the goal isn't simply getting from one place to another. It's helping our four-legged traveling companions feel safe enough to enjoy the adventure right alongside us.

Learn more at SusanHartzler.com.

Stacey Wittig is a travel writer based in Flagstaff. Get more tips for taking your dog on the road at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com.





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