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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 2023 by Flagstaff-Sedona Dog. Layout and design by Kim Prosser, Graphics Manager.



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Flagstaff-Sedona Dog magazine



COVER DOG CONTEST

It's easy to enter your furry best friend!

- 1) Take a picture 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 will receive:

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- 3) A personalized social media post congratulating your dog as the winner and an electronic copy of the printed cover

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

**Deadline Dates - 3/31, 5/31, 7/31,
9/30, 11/30 and 1/31**



Stetson, Our Cover Dog

Name: Stetson

Hometown: Paulden, Arizona

Age: Six years old.

Favorite Brand of Kibble: I rather enjoy my Taste of the Wild kibble.

Favorite People Food: Anything my Mom lets me have and not have. I love everything!

Favorite Toy: The jolly ball I stole from Mom's horse.

Favorite Outdoor Activity: Hiking with Mom and swimming in creeks and seeing my friends at the dog park.

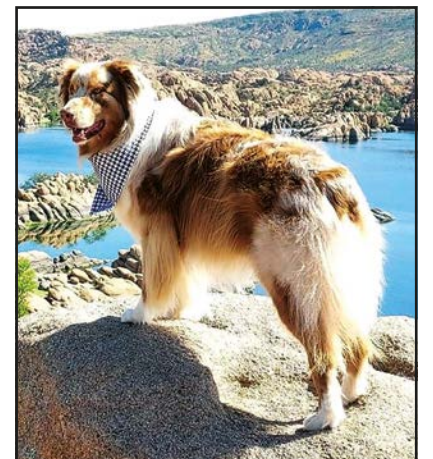
Favorite Indoor Activity: I love napping when I'm inside, and taking it easy.

Favorite Nap Spot: Mom's bed is real comfy, or the big mission chair in the corner.

Fitness Regimen: Following Mom around while she does her horse chores.

Describe Your Perfect Canine Pal: have a fave huskie pal I grew up with in California, but I'm a happy-go-lucky guy, I like everyone!

Describe Your Perfect Day: A great day for me would be to start with a morning snack and go for a good hike, or just hanging with Mom around the ranch. I'm easy-going, as long as I'm fed and get my naps and all the love my Mom always gives me!



Tucker's Take

A Winter's Tail

Yesterday, Hazel anxiously waited and watched the backyard. She was convinced somehow that it was going to snow. Thick, dark clouds had moved in and stalled over our neighborhood. Not that Hazel ever looks up to the sky much; she was sensing the drop in pressure and the gray lighting of the landscape.

She had convinced herself that soon, so very soon, she would be plowing nose-first through the powder, chomping its freshness, and Dad would be tossing snowballs in all directions for us to chase (until his hands got cold).

I adopted a wait-an-see attitude, which is how I pretty much operate in most situations. It pays off in my sheriff's duties.

Hazel, on the other hand, likes to wind herself up over certain things. Tennis balls being thrown, Dad's truck arriving, plastic bags being opened (possible food), and of course...mealtime.

Mom told me that in the past, when Hazel came in off the road with Dad, at mealtime she would prance around in such a way that Mom had to time when and where she was going to set Hazel's bowl on the floor as frenzied, unpredictable, spastic moves were made in Mom's path.

Hazel, supposedly, is more subdued now at mealtime, but you couldn't prove it by me. I wait in the living room until Keira's name is called, then I can manage to get to my position in front of the sink (which Dad calls "table two"). If I arrive too soon as the food is dished out, I get whacked in the face with either tail or hindquarters.

As the day wore on, and with every trip outside, Hazel would look around asking if we saw any flakes.

Inside the house, a low key and comfy-cozy afternoon. Keira and I crowded Dad on his couch as he poked and clicked away on his laptop. Hazel took up the very end of the other couch where she could keep an eagle eye on the backyard through the patio doors.

As twilight fell, dinner was laid out and swiftly consumed, and we three shot out the door to once again survey our environs and do our business. Hazel insisted on pushing through to be first, and showed her disappointment at the obvious lack of falling flakes. She returned inside and headed straight to bed. Not a happy camper to be sure.

Later—way later in the night—Dad, Keira, and I woke suddenly. The house had creaked in an unusual way.



A blast from a storm-front had hit the opposite corner of the house, and the tall pine tree began singing in a strong, alternating high wind.

The three of us looked each other in the dim night-light dark. Mom was still deep sleep breathing, and Little-Miss-Keeping-Watch-on-the-Weather was sound asleep on her bed: dreaming, legs twitching, and vocalizing little bursts of Curly Howard-style barks.

Dad placed a hand on Keira's withers. "All good Keira...everything's alright." Keira, being the baby of the family, and even at three years old, still has to be reassured during new unexplained circumstances.

Dad then slowly lowered his legs to the floor and tried to get a look out the bedroom window between the curtains without waking Hazel or Mom.

Just as he was about to reach up to the curtains, his knee creaked, with an added crackle of toe-bones.

Mom stirred enough to ask, "What are you doing?"

That woke Hazel. Now six pairs of eyes were on Dad's back as Mom forgot she was waiting for an answer, rolled over in the opposite direction, and resumed her sleep-breathing.

Dad sensed the questioning eyes behind him.

"Very windy out there...." was all he said quietly, before making his way back under the covers and completely ignoring our questioning gazes.

Was there snow?

The wind and the cycling of the furnace lulled us back to sleep in short order, but we still wondered.

Aside from the slight rumbling in our tummies, what really really woke us in the predawn hours was the sudden quiet. We could tell from the un-

usually muffled first-light sounds of the neighborhood that a thick white landscape awaited us.

Hazel bounded down the hallway first and returned three times before Mom and Dad could gather themselves and the rest of us to the door. And there it was...inches and inches of drifted snow piles up and down the backyard.

Hazel bounded up and down over them. I couldn't resist getting in chest-deep and doing my stomp dance, sending clouds of powder out from underneath me.

Keira pranced and gamboled back and forth from the pine tree to the back door where Dad was standing watching Hazel face-shovel snow into the air as she ran. Mom had gone back into the house to get towels.

When Hazel came up for air, she saw Dad at the door with his gloves on. You could say that's when the real fun began.

Dad did his best to make balls out of the powdery snow. When nose or muzzle touched the snowballs in the air during our chasing, they flew apart in all directions, and we would race to try to find one small piece if we could and tease the others with it. Playing keep away with a melting object was futile, and...flat out fun.

When Dad's hands got cold, and his snowballs couldn't stay together to be thrown, we started to think seriously about breakfast. Then we saw Mom waiting at the door with towels, and we decided to play some more.

Dad had to hustle us back in at Mom's urging, and we endured the terrycloth rubdown.

Keira likes to help being dried by grabbing a generous amount of the towel in her mouth and pulling in the opposite direction than Mom is.

Dad commented on how he liked the scent of snow-wet dogs, but he cut his description short while watching Mom try to dry Keira with eight inches of a full-size bath towel.

While we chowed down our kibble, Dad stayed outside to listen to the scraping of snow shovels, a single distant snowblower, and a neighbor asking if the other neighbor had jumper cables.

When we bounded out the door for a second round of snow munching and play, I stopped for a minute to look out the gate and revel in the fact that four-leggeds and two-leggeds all through the neighborhood were probably having as much fun as we were...minus the towel part.

~Tucker Oso



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While there's not complete agreement, most experts concede that the relationship between people and dogs goes back thousands of years. A dog bone found in a prehistoric tomb at Newgrange, Ireland, indicates domestication some 4,800 years ago. This has given our four-legged friends plenty of time to adapt to our lifestyles and the benefit of befriending us.

The feeling, of course, is mutual. If you're a dog owner, you intuitively know your pet is sensitive to you and your movements. Studies increasingly reveal fascinating facts that support and help explain the bond between people and our best friend—the dog.

Researchers Benjamin and Slocombe compared and reported dogs' responses to dog-directed speech and adult-directed speech in "Animal Cognition"—a fascinating article exploring dogs' responses to pet owners' dog-speak.

Many dog lovers will unabashedly admit to cooing over their fur baby. If you are one of them, you know the routine. You find yourself making comments in a high-pitch voice like, "That's my good girl," and "Does sweetie want a treat?" There's a name for those loving murmurs—dog-directed speech (DDS). The study showed that both the tonal range and comments seem to be favored by dogs. People who demonstrated dog-friendly language were pre-

ferred by the test dogs.

Amazing? It gets better. Our canine buddies are not to be outdone by an ape.

Dogs can understand imperative pointing—a communication tool lost on chimpanzees. In a 2012 study, the experimenter pointed to the item she wanted and rewarded the dog for handing over the correct one. Chimps, on the other hand, just couldn't figure it out (reference: tinyurl.com/mu4xb3ah). Expounding on canines' sensitivity to our gestures, dog trainers often suggest that pet owners couple any verbal command with a hand signal.

The results of yet another intriguing study led the authors to determine that, "Dogs have been found to be excellent behavior-readers if given the opportunity. They are highly competent in learning about directly observable but also quite subtle behavioral, gestural, vocal, and attentional cues, which is of high adaptive value for life in the human environment. In addition to their behavior-reading competences they also seem to be sensitive to some mental states in humans. They for example seem to know that humans have visual perspectives different from their own" (reference: tinyurl.com/3rnpuj9a).

Additionally, science has demonstrated that the dog/human bond is affixed with a chemical reaction—Oxytocin. Oxytocin is both a hormone and a neurotransmitter. Hormones travel through the blood and act on cells. Electrical signals in the brain and nerves cause neurotransmitters to release and act on



Potential dog daddy, Marco, bonds with his soon-to-be-adopted puppy. Pre-adoption visits are encouraged at VVHS.

other brain and nerve cells. Oxytocin does both.

You may have heard about Oxytocin's connection to people in love or mothers with their infants. It is well-known for increasing feelings of calm, trust, and affection thus creating a bond between those experiencing it.

The first to demonstrate the cross-species outcome of Oxytocin—a study titled, "Oxytocin-gaze Positive Loop and the Co-evolution

of Human-dog Bonds" and led by Nagasawa—showed that Oxytocin increased in both dog and owner as they gazed into each other's eyes—akin to the deepest of human attachments. K. London in her article, "Oxytocin: Chemistry Between People and Dogs is Real" confirms, "...we love our dogs like we love people, scientifically speaking."

At the Verde Valley Humane Society, we promote positive relationships between people and dogs and take extra care in helping potential adopters find their special fur baby. You're encouraged to make an appointment to discuss your desire for adoption, where our animal behavioral specialist will discuss your lifestyle choices and the dog characteristics relevant to make the best possible match.

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(Rescue Tales continued on page 14)

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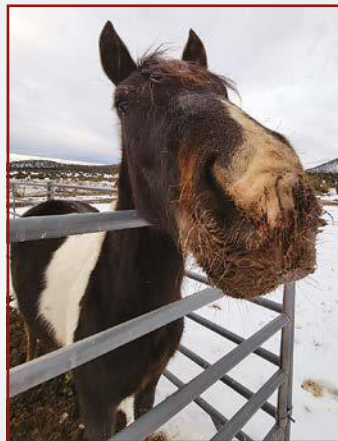
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Flagstaff-Sedona Dog
magazine

Snow Ponies of Arizona 2022-2023

Background photo: A Winter Wonderland at Western Legends Ranch in Williams. Photo by Abby McGill.



Outlaw NOSE a Lot About Winters in Williams. Photo by Abby McGill.



Supping Among the Snowflakes in Prescott Valley. Photo by Donna Terhune.



Snow Kisses from Snow Pony Gus in Prescott Valley. Photo by Lisa Cuthbertson.



Poland (Polar Bear) Junction. Ababians Taz and Harley on Guard. Photo by Robin Stepanek.



Under the Icicle Tree in Mayer. Photo by Jodi Gordon.



Silhouettes in the Snow. Photo by Shelley Murphy.



Curly Joe, Snow Grazing in Williams. Photo by Abby McGill.



Rescue Resources

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



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Monty Hutson Turns Passion for Service and Dogs Into Helping Fellow Veterans

By Heidi Dahms Foster

A Northern Arizona man with a passion for veterans and dogs has found a way to help both.

Monty Hutson served in the Army in Germany for six years, in the 101st Airborne and 8th Infantry. When he returned to the U.S., he started a successful company in Los Angeles. He always had a passion for helping veterans, however, so he eventually sold the company and founded the For Veterans Sake Foundation, pairing rescued dogs with veterans and first responders with PTSD.

Hutson spent more than 30 years counseling veterans, and saw the benefits service dogs provided. He was a skilled dog trainer, working with hunting, tracking, and search and rescue dogs. He became frustrated with the money it cost and the time it took to provide a dog to a veteran or first responder, so he began pulling dogs from shelters and training them as service animals. For Veterans Sake Foundation, a 501c3 organization, has been in operation since 2014, and has trained and placed more than 250 dogs with veterans and first responders.

"We always seek our dogs from the shelters, a 'life for a life,'" Hutson said. "We go and look for a dog of the same character to pair with the person we are working with. We look at their demeanor in the runs, to see how they respond to other dogs around them, and test them. Then we take them out of the run and work one-on-one. The veterans get the dogs almost immediately, and we start working with them. The veteran has to come to training with the dog every week.

"There are too many good dogs sitting on death row waiting to be part of someone's life. Some veterans and first responders with PTSD are waiting to re-engage in life. It's no problem to go to shelters and work with them to pull dogs. It's very simple and direct, and our services are absolutely free," Hutson said.

He said the Foundation pairs the dogs with veterans depending on their needs. Many veterans, he said, isolate themselves and never want to be seen or heard. "We push them a bit, make them do things to care for the dogs. If the dogs' natural ability works with the veteran's needs, that's the one we'll pull.

"(Placement) depends on the situation," Hutson said. "We listen to the vets. We have to be able to place a dog with them that will help them progress in their situation, or we won't provide the dog," he said. "We're here for people who are serious about continuing to train for the rest of their lives. There are always new situations and new adventures."

Other requirements for the service dogs are that they are more than 20 pounds, and must have the ability to pass a Good Citizen test. Hutson has found that the smaller dogs sometimes don't have the needed attention span.



Monty Hutson & Friend

The breed or mix of the dog doesn't matter, but Hutson steers clear of dogs with aggressive temperaments.

The For Veterans Sake facilities used to be in Texas, but Hutson did not find enough support there for the organization. He is now based with his crew in Williams. "We worked with a lot of people in Texas, and we still stay in touch and work together."

For Veterans Sake is supported by private donations and fundraisers. The organization operates with a minimal staff and dedicated volunteers. "Our staff and volunteers will go through hell and back for me. When they see what we're doing with the veterans and dogs, the outcomes motivate them more," Hutson said. "It's a great team, and no one is above anyone else. They just like the dogs and they want to work together."

Hutson has several of his own dogs that are important to his work – three German Shepherds named Ruger, Lilly and Saxon, and a full white wolf named Sheba. Lilly is trained to identify when another dog in training is having issues. "She'll move off that sideline and correct the dog and go back. Ruger just likes to play around and strut his stuff. Sheba likes to sit on the sidelines, but she'll stir things up with her wolf smell. Some other dogs see her as a predator animal, and it's a good way to test them and see how they will respond."

While he was in the military, Hutson had a program training wolves. He worked to show that the animals have a sense of smell so accurate that there is great use for them. He obtained Sheba in northern Arizona. She is now trained to detect seven different cancers with 93 percent accuracy. Lilly is also trained in cancer detection, heart and thyroid issues. In Texas during a fundraiser, Lilly was fast asleep. A woman walked up and Lilly alerted. Hutson spoke with her and told her that the dog was trained to detect those health issues. The woman told him that she had just left the doctor's office and had been scheduled for bypass surgery.

For Veterans Sake has a donated tour bus and a motor home that are used to take the program to veterans that cannot come to them. Appointments can be scheduled in the Phoenix area, Nevada or Utah. "We just set up for a long weekend and bring our volunteers," Hutson said. "If they can't make it to us, we can show them how to train



For Veterans Sake training session. All of these dogs have been rescued from shelters.

their dogs and get on the right path. That way we can reach more vets.

"We've had so many great stories," he said. "One lady in Texas had seizures and she didn't know what to do. She had lost everything. Her partner came to see what we were about, and I said, 'bring her over here and we'll talk.'" We decided we could help her, and found her a dog at the Marshall, Texas shelter. It was the perfect dog for her. She came out to meet us, because I needed to see how she would work with the dog. The dog, Rimshot, got so good at detecting seizures he would give her a five-minute head start."

The next time Hutson saw the woman and her dog, she told him she had not had a seizure in four months. "It has changed her whole life. She has re-engaged in life."

Hutson's passion for dogs and what they can do for veterans and first responders with PTSD shows through in everything he says and does. "Animals are just amazing, if we just listen to them. They are a lot more intelligent than we are."

For Veterans Sake is a small organization with a big heart, Hutson said. "Our mission is to provide PTSD service dogs, and we're very good at what we do. It's one of the best jobs, to work with dogs day in and day out. We tell those who receive our dogs that training is every day for the rest of your life while you have the dog. When the dog gets older, you get another one and start all over – it's a whole new thing. We work through the issues with each dog, and what you put in is what you get out."

The more than 250 people who have received a For Veterans Sake dog still call to share their experiences and adventures. "They are engaging in society and producing, becoming a part of something again. It's always good news to hear that," Hutson said.

For more information about For Veterans Sake or to donate, visit their website at: ForVeteransSake.org, or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/www.forveteranssake.org.



For Veterans Sake tour bus and volunteers.

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Congratulations to our 2022 Cover Winners

Entry details on *page 5* or prescottdog.com or flagstaffsedona.com



Animal Guardian Network at Healing River Ranch

By Rita Thompson-Tinsley

Animal Guardian Network (AGN) is not a rescue, although they do rescue animals in need. They are specifically an animal sanctuary that tend to 'the ones no one would save'.

As you drive through the gate at Healing River Ranch, located along the Verde River in Camp Verde, your eyes take in a widespread area with meticulously placed fencing and cross fencing, livestock shelters and paddocks; each area specified for the special-needs residents.

Two great Pyrenees peruse nearby, well trained by AGN founder Carrie Singer for guarding and protecting the farm animals, as well as being just good friendly gentle dogs. Nonetheless, they know their job and perform well daily.

There is a Steer Barn, a Farm Barn, there is also Burro Canyon. There is a Canine Unit with round the clock care especially for those in hospice care.

This is not your average sanctuary. This is an extraordinary animal care facility that extends lifesaving care and rehabilitation for animals who are elderly, neglected, abused, or with special needs. From frolicking goats to grazing sheep, steers, whimsical burros and donkeys, miniature horses and full-size equines, you will find many different personalities and species at this special Camp Verde site. There is even the unlikely rescued bull, Salty, and a longhorn.

Carrie Singer, who was a well established professional, left a successful career for a mission she deemed far more rewarding. Founded in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, AGN at Healing River Ranch in Camp Verde was the place that Singer desired to be, where she could do the most good for those who need it the most.



Molly was found alongside the road, left under a tree to die, abandoned, neglected and picked up by Animal Control. They called AGN, Carrie Singer, who immediately took her to the vet. The dog could not walk, nor barely lift her head. Her skin was literally flaking off in places and her eyes would not focus.

A thorough exam revealed that the dog was severely dehydrated, and her organs had already begun to shut down. They said there was no hope for this dog.

In Carrie Singer's eyes, all dogs have hope and deserve loving comfort even if their days are short. Decency was shown to this suffering pup, newly named Molly Bear. Under Singer's care, the best vet care and medications were given. Molly could not walk so Singer carried her everywhere and even hand fed her every nutritious meal. Special therapies were added to Molly's treatment and Carrie shared the progress daily in Facebook posts.

The world was watching, and Molly's audience and their prayers were growing. Eventually, Molly rallied and miraculously began to move her legs. Then one day she stood, and then she began to walk on her own. All of this was caught on video and shared with the world. Somehow, her neurological disease that caused her head tilt and eye issues was gone!



Pepe, happy and healing.
Photo by Dee Dee Purcell.

Molly quickly became a beacon of hope for those forgotten, abused, neglected and abandoned.

When Molly's time came, she left this world with dignity, grace, and the love of thousands as her final post was read by over 45,000 people worldwide. She shall never be forgotten.



Pasture pals Buster and Shooter.
Photo by Dee Dee Purcell.

This is only one story. Many of the animals at Healing River Ranch are untouchable, and there are special rules and guidelines for their care so that their lives will not feel threatened, honoring their 'comfort zones'. The stories are very real, and some are brutal and beyond comprehension, but one thing is for sure, these animals and their needs, their safety and comfort, come first at this animal sanctuary at Healing River Ranch.

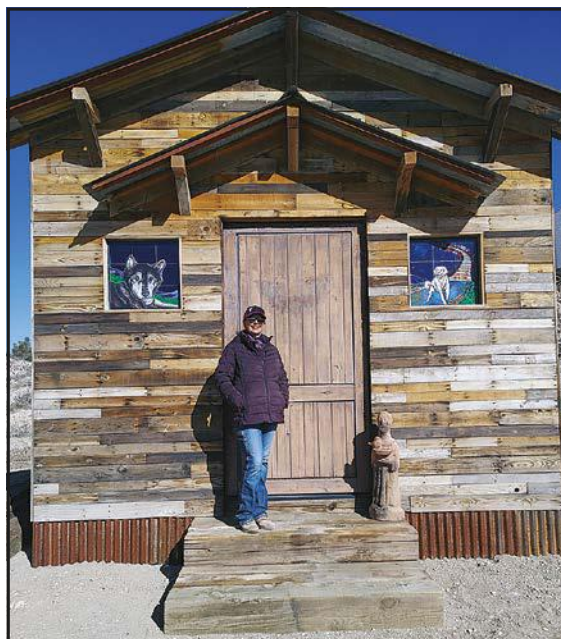
Another feature you will find on your extensive tour of the ranch is the beautiful, yet concise, Healing Heart Chapel, designed expressly as a place of peace where comfort and support can be found throughout your grieving process. Carrie Singer believes that "The process of grieving for a pet should be no different than mourning the death of a human being."

A philosophy that Singer emphasizes and that truly defines the sanctuary is that Animal Guardian Network at Healing River Ranch is "where a long life is not always possible, but a full one absolutely is."



The happy hee haw crew. Photo by Carrie Singer.

In the beginning, Carrie started out helping dogs in every bad situation you could imagine. Then one day, during one of those life changing moments, Carrie realized the magical effect of her own extraordinary gift. It was partly from this true incident, Molly's Story, as told from a condensed excerpt of the writing of Michelle Chadek.



AGN Founder Carrie Singer at Healing Heart Chapel.



Salt showing off his GOATee.
Photo by Dee Dee Purcell.

Chase's Corner: A New Therapy Organization

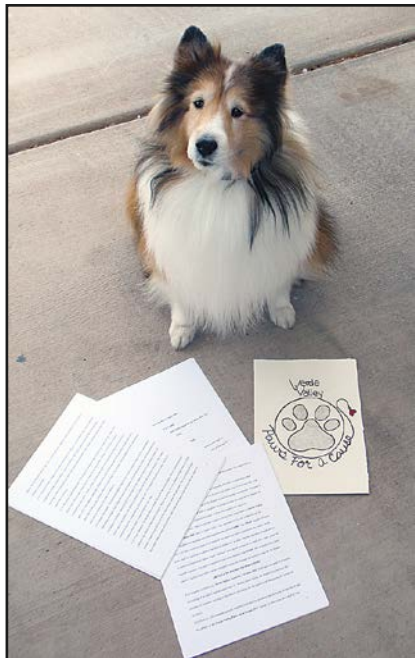
By Chase & Jan Tomlinson

Just when I thought my mom had run out of new ideas, she came up with another one! This time she had help from her student and friend, Pat. Since my therapy organization that I belonged to folded after CoVid, they decided I needed a new organization so I could continue my therapy dog work.

Let's see. The first thing I'm going to have to do is get a handbook on how to start a therapy organization. It says the first thing I have to do is apply to be a corporation in the State of Arizona. There is so much paperwork for me to fill out! I am going to be very busy and won't have time to train with my mom.

I filled out the forms and then discovered that we needed officers and a board of directors. Okay, who should I pick? I finally decided on a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. To make things easy, they will also be the Board of Directors. Whew! That part is done. Now, just sit and wait to hear from the State of Arizona.

Finally! We are now a corporation, but have to have a constitution and



by-laws. Oh, I forgot to tell you the name of our new organization. It is Verde Valley Paws For A Cause. I was pretty smart to think of this name. But, now we needed a logo to go with the name. I know an artist. so I will ask her to design one. Then I asked my mom if she would make the therapy evaluation test. This is really a big job for a little Sheltie to do!

After consulting my handbook again, it said the next step I had to do was put our corporation by-laws in the Verde newspaper for three weeks, so people could read them. I really don't think many people read those pages! If this costs money, I hope it doesn't come out of my dog food account.

Three weeks went by, and now I have to apply for our non-profit status and get an ID number. This means I have to send the information to the Federal Government. I think they live in Washington, D.C.. My mom says that is a long way from Arizona.

Yay! I got a letter in the mail saying we are now a non-profit, and we even have a number to prove it. I wonder what I can use this number for. Maybe when I buy my new therapy dog vest, I won't have to pay tax?

My next job is looking into getting insurance, so when my mom and I go on our therapy visits, we have insurance in case anything happens. I am an expert at therapy work, so I'm not too worried about that. These insurance companies

are really slow in getting back to me, so I am still waiting on this last thing to do.

My mom just finished teaching a therapy dog class, and now they will be able to take their therapy dog evaluation. I will have to do it too. If they pass, then they will have to see their vet and get a clean bill of health before they can visit.

Everyone will be wearing a vest for their visits, so we need to decide on a color and what we want to have embroidered on it. I think teal is really a nice color, and it will look good on any color dog. I decided to have our new logo on one side of it and then my name and the words, "Pet Me, I'm Friendly" on the other side. That will help everyone know I am a friendly dog whose job is to make people feel better.

Maybe you would like to become a therapy dog some day. So, keep us in mind, and if you would like to join our group, just email me. You can check out the club web site at: verdevalleyagilityclub.com, and my mom's email address is there.

~Sir Chase

CHASE'S CORNER: A NEW THERAPY ORGANIZATION

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(Rescue Tales continued from page 7)



The Story of Ash

Ash was originally brought to a shelter in Flagstaff by a rescue group. She was absolutely terrified. Although she was shy and fearful at first, the staff were patient, and Ash warmed up to them. She was very affectionate with the people that worked with her as well as loving and playful.

After more than a year, Ash was still looking for her forever family. No one had shown any interest in this amazing dog.



As time went on, Ash began to struggle in the shelter environment. She became very frightened inside the kennels and was very fearful of new people. She was transferred to HSS at the end of August in hopes of a fresh start for beautiful Ash.

You can check out the videos on HSS's Facebook page to see what a love bug she is. She is also very smart, knows lots of tricks, walks well

on a leash, and is potty trained. She continues to be loving, playful, and affectionate with the people that work with her. Once she is comfortable, she is a huge goof and loves sliding on her belly.

Ash needs her forever home. She is need of a loving and patient person or family. She would

do best as the only pet in the home because of the amount of love and attention she will need, especially in the beginning.

Ash is a Catahoula Leopard Dog mix, about 4 years old, around 45 pounds, spayed, microchipped and

has all her current vaccines. Ash's adoption fee has been sponsored.

As with all their adopted animals, HSS would provide post-adoption support to her new family. She would also do well in a foster home until she finds her forever family. HSS provides all supplies as well as 24-hour support to fosters.

If you are interested in Ash—either to foster or to adopt her—please call us at 928-282-4679.

If you are not able to foster or adopt Ash, you can still help her by sharing her story with your friends and family. The more people that know about Ash, the better chance she has of finding her forever family!



If you think that it's 'only a cat' then obviously you have never loved a cat.

~T.S.Eliot



Dogtree Pines Senior Dog Sanctuary is a new non-profit based in Prescott, committed to rescuing high risk senior dogs in need of a forever home, medical, hospice and end of life care. Our mission is to rescue, provide medical care, nutritious homemade food, and superior love & care in an amazing sanctuary setting to hospice and senior large dogs that are located in Arizona and surrounding areas.

This endeavor was started by Cindy Lamont, President & Chairman of the 501c3 non-profit, with the help of Army veteran and "better half," Bill Nicholas. They decided to follow their love and passion for senior dogs creating a sanctuary setting rescue located on 5.5 acres in the pines of Prescott where approximately 15 large breed seniors call home. Dogtree Pines primarily intakes large dogs who are 10 years and older, most of which have been dumped or surrendered due to their age and/or medical conditions.

These lucky seniors are provided everything they need to live a healthy, happy life. This year, Dogtree Pines has taken over 40 senior dogs from various sources, primarily high kill shelters, all of which were high risk due to age, health or mental state. A few have been adopted out but the majority that make it to the pines are there to stay.

When these seniors arrive, their medical needs are evaluated and managed. These dogs are fed homemade nutritious food, supplements & medications as needed. Any veterinary care that is beneficial is scheduled. They are introduced into the pack and shown the "ropes" by the other dogs.

It's amazing how well all these dogs do together. Even dogs that have never been in a house before

quickly learn how to assimilate into the pack. Some have freedom for the first time in their lives. Their transformation is miraculous in most cases.

The seniors live out their life on a fully-fenced three acres with full access to the house and front wrap-around deck for deer and javelina viewing. They even have a heated therapy pool to ease pain in their old joints. Most of these dogs are happy, healthy, safe & loved for the first time in their life. Every dog that comes through these doors are treated like personal pets, provided everything they need, and loved unconditionally!

Why seniors? They are the sweetest, most appreciate dogs! Almost all the dogs we rescue have been rescued from horrible circumstances. Some were once somebody's dog and knew a better life, but for circumstances we will never know or understand, have ended up homeless, lost, sick, injured, neglected, ignored, or on the euthanasia list with no hope of rescue.

They deserve better than that and they know better. "No dog deserves to die alone in a cage on a cold concrete floor, certainly not seniors that have given their entire lives to us!"

Seniors are being dropped at shelters, dumped and euthanized in record numbers right now. Seniors are especially hard to adopt out because they have limited time left and unusually large vet bills. Very few people go to a shelter looking to adopt an old broken dog that they will only have for a very short time. In addition, rescues face the same challenges.

Seniors cost more, require more time and effort and they cannot recoup an adoption fee in most



cases. These old guys usually sit at the shelter, uncomfortable and in pain, until eventually they are euthanized. Dogtree Pines gives these dogs the joy, love and health that they deserve and when it comes time, a loving passing.

Dogtree Pines is now welcoming volunteers and fosters to the sanctuary. We currently have several dogs awaiting space or fosters to be able to intake:

- Petey and Sadie are 14 years old and recently lost their owner. Sadie is a female black lab and a Petey is male hound mix. These two have lost everything and are just looking for a comfortable place to live out the remainder of their lives. They are dog friendly and will steal your heart! All food and medical is covered by the rescue. You just feed and love.
- Sally is a petite lab/shepherd/who knows what mix also looking for her forever home. She is the biggest lover ever but is dog selective and would require an intro. She's approx. 10 years old and just wants to be your forever companion.

If you have space and would like to open your doors to a senior companion, please give me a call.

It is an unbelievable amount of work to take care of these senior dogs and manage the sanctuary and the help is always welcomed. Donations of any size are always welcome and will be utilized to cover vet bills and food. You can reach us at 928-273-2228 or dogtreepines@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

See our website at DogtreePines.com or follow us on Facebook. Paypal: dogtreepines@gmail.com. Venmo: @dogtreepines

Little Orphan Animals

Little Orphan Animals is a non-profit animal sanctuary located in the lush riparian valley of Cornville, Arizona. It began over 40 years ago with a simple love of animals and has grown to accommodate over two hundred amazing creatures of various species, most rescued from harsh conditions or uncertain futures.

Horses, donkeys, hogs, goats, longhorn cattle and alpacas wander our 10-acre property that includes pastures, mesquite desert, and an artesian well which provides ancient, pure water for drinking and bathing. A feisty zebra named Poncho patrols the property, keeping predators at bay and egos in check! There are various enclosures specially created for housing the smaller animals such as pot-bellied pigs, chickens, turkeys and emus as well as the older and injured animals.

We try to give all of our inhabitants the space and freedom to explore and live a rich life. We're currently building a sun-filled, climate-controlled aviary



for feral cats, as well as more space for the many dogs guided our way.

There are never enough hours in the day, but we have an incredible team of volunteers and donors whose dedication and kindness change the lives of all of these animals, as well as those of the humans involved.

In 2008, we were granted a 501(c)(3) status which has helped us expand our program and reach more lives. We would eventually like to create more outreach programs for compassionate education and

"cathedral" for the tropical birds who share their lives with us. Our next dream is to create a stimulating environment

currently have been working with rescue organizations in Mexico City to help care for and adopt injured and abandoned cats and dogs found on the streets.

The need for animals is exceedingly great in these uncertain times of economic stress and the pandemic has created an environment rife with uncertainty, loss, and neglect. It's our desire to help more animals and humans in their pursuit of a peaceful, healthy life.

We would greatly appreciate any financial assistance you might offer to help us continue our work. Your donations are tax deductible and nurture dozens of lives. We are always in need of animal feed of all types. Dog food, cat food, hay, chicken scratch, grains—even fresh foods. Nothing goes to waste on our sanctuary. We're also in constant need of fencing wire and construction materials to create safe enclosures and environments. We can be contacted through our website, littleorphananimals.org or by calling 602-692-3411.

Thank you for helping to change the lives of so many!

Exciting News

This is our third year in a row winning the Best of Flag competition for all three categories we were nominated for! We are honored to be named Flagstaff's best pet adoption service, public agency, and nonprofit. In 2022, our shelter adopted out just under 2,200 pets: What an accomplishment!



Shelter Needs

High Country Humane went into the new year with a serious over-capacity concern. All our dog kennels and cat condos were full to the brim. We were housing multiple dogs per room, and we even had dogs living in our bathrooms.

When we made a call to the community for aid, they showed up at our gates to foster. That has been one constant throughout the past year. Our fosters have provided



support of foster families. We provide supplies, food, and cover medical care for animals in foster care. It does not cost the fosters anything! Anyone can foster for High Country Humane if you live within one hour of the shelter and are in Coconino County!

If you are interested in fostering, or want to learn more about the program, head to our website! We are so grateful to our fosters and just want to encourage ev-

eryone to foster for your local animal shelter. Fosters truly do change lives.

loving homes to newborn kittens, litters of puppies, senior cats with medical concerns, and many adult dogs. We could not do what we do without them.

In the coming months, we will always need the

support of foster families. We provide supplies, food, and cover medical care for animals in foster care. It does not cost the fosters anything! Anyone can foster for High Country Humane if you live within one hour of the shelter and are in Coconino County!

If you are reading this and are unable to foster or adopt, donating is an enormous way to help our animals! You can donate online using our website OR you can send items straight from our Amazon Wishlist. Whether it's \$5 or a bag of kibble, it means the world to us that you support our mission of saving animals!

Last but not least, you can follow us on social media to see everything we have going on. We post adoptable animals, adoption success stories, donation requests, future events, and more!

We also recently made a TikTok account to add some fun content, so make sure to follow us there too! To see the events we have planned, see our calendar at: tinyurl.com/utvp2xpu.

Spend a good amount of time there with them, and let them roam around and get used to the area. Even if they do their business while out there, be prepared for accidents to happen. Be patient and understanding with them.

If you're going to be crating your new dog, show him where the crate is and leave it open so he can freely go inside if he needs some alone time or to decompress. For the first couple of days, give your new friend a good amount of one-on-one time so he can learn your voice, your movements, and settle in easier.

Don't push the issue, just let them adjust and get to know you. Don't expect your newly adopted cat to curl up in your lap right away; they may cower in a corner or hide. Don't expect your newly adopted dog to snuggle up with you right away; they have no idea who you are and what their new life is going to entail. Also, avoid large crowds or the dog park until they've settled in.

Do some research on different ways to help them adjust, and don't expect a dog to immediately feel at home. Some may, but many won't. You might not see your new pet's true personality for several weeks. Be patient and understanding and stay on a schedule of feeding, playing, and walking at the same time every day so they can get in the right routine with you.

You can almost compare this process to starting over at a new school or job. You need to learn your way around, meet new people, and adjust to new schedules and routines. By being patient and letting your new friend take their own time to adjust, you'll help them have a happily ever after in their new forever home!

(Rescue Tales continued on page 17)



Give Them Time to Adjust

Picture this...you're a dog and living happily with your family. All of a sudden, through probably no fault of your own, your world is turned upside down, and you find yourself in a shelter. You're scared, confused, sad and just want your people. Now, here you are watching people walk past your kennel who don't even give you a chance to say hi.

Then, one day someone comes in and wants to meet you. You're so excited, and you go out to the bark park and get to know them and hang out for a little while, and then they decide they want you to come home with them. You're trying to figure out what's happening.

Now you're in your new home. You explore everything, you run around in the yard, you're full of energy. Or maybe you're just hanging out in a corner still

trying to figure out what's going on.

Newly adopted dogs need time to adjust to their new homes, and it's important for new dog parents to be prepared for what can sometimes be a time consuming and stressful process. Giving it one day isn't enough time. Giving it three days isn't enough. It can sometimes take up to three months or longer.

Remember, your new dog has been in a shelter and it's confused, still trying to figure out what's going on and learning new routines. It takes time. They're dealing with the stress of being in a new environment with new people, routines, and smells. They're also trying to figure out if they are really home, or if there's another change coming.

It's important to start training your dog as soon as you bring them home by taking them out to where they will be going potty.





FLUFFY: A 3-year-old female pit bull mix. She is super sweet and needs a family that will provide her with endless pets and affection. She is very loyal and extremely smart. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



DOTTIE: A very sweet and affectionate girl 3-year-old female cattle dog mix looking for her forever home and family. Super well-mannered and gentle, and just LOVE PEOPLE so much! High Country Humane 928-526-0742



MOGWAI: A super cute and sweet 2-month-old Chihuahua mix puppy looking for his forever home. Loves to play hard, snuggle, nap hard, repeat! He is fixed, microchipped, & up to date on vaccines. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



ZIVA: A 2-year-old female pit bull mix. She is sweet and affectionate, and she knows basic obedience. She does well with other dogs and loves meeting people and making new friends. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



COCO: A very friendly 3-year-old female shepherd mix. She is very affectionate and gets along great with everyone, especially children. She likes going on walks and is potty trained. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



CASSIE: A 2-year-old female Australian Shepherd mix. She is very sweet and loves other dogs as well as people. High Country Humane 928-526-0742



WINSTON: A 2-year-old male fawn French Bulldog. He is a sweet and snuggly fellow, but he does not like sharing attention with other pets. Humane Society of Sedona 480-448-6324



ROMERO: A male 5-year-old Chihuahua mix. He is grieving the death of his previous owner, and desperately needs a home with lots of love and cuddles. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



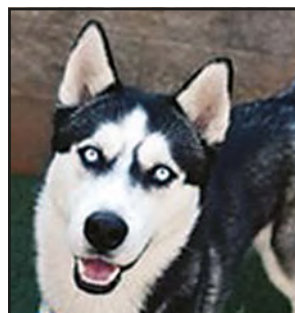
BALDWIN: A male 8-year-old Bull Terrier, black with white trim. He is super smart, snuggly, and loves people, but not so much other dogs. He is obsessed with tennis balls and loves to play. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



POSEIDEN: A male 2-year-old Bassett Hound mix. He is a very sweet and very strong boy. He is not good with other pets, especially small animals. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



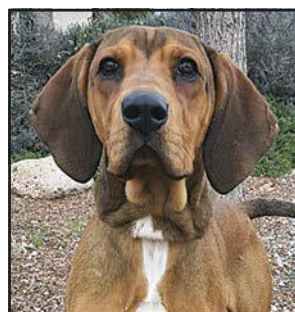
CLEO: A 1-year-old white mixed breed female. They are not quite certain about what kind of mix. She is very sweet and affectionate with people, but not so much with other pets. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



HARRY: A male 1-year-old Alaskan Malamute, black and silver with gorgeous blue eyes. He is very sweet, loves belly rubs, but also hiking or camping adventures. Humane Society of Sedona 928-282-4679



DROGO: An adult pitbull mix. Drogo is big, strong, and affectionate. He is very smart and likes to learn. He does not like children or other animals. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



JAMES: This is a classic adult male Redbone Hound. He is sweet and affectionate, but he loves to go on walks and smell things! Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



CHIEF: A 1-year-old male shepherd cross. He is smart, active, and playful. He would make a great adventure buddy.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



NALA: A beautiful black adult female Great Dane mix. She is big, affectionate, intelligent, and protective. She would prefer to be your only dog.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



SPARKLE: An adult female yellow lab mix (maybe). Smart, affectionate, loves to play, walks well on a leash and loves car rides. She is selective about her doggie friends and does not like cats. Verde Valley Humane Society 928-634-7387



HEIDI: A 1-year-old female Pointer mix. She is gentle, affectionate, and loves to play with toys and cuddle. She is a moderate energy dog but does get the zoomies occasionally. Cononino Humane Association 928-526-1076.



LAVENDER: A 2-month-old female Catahoula Leopard dog mix. She is a sweet and energetic puppy full of cuddles and love. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



TAMMY: A female 6-month-old Shepherd/Rottweiler mix. She is smart, affectionate, active, and easy to train. She is working on basic commands and can do the basic agility course. Coconino Humane Association 928-526-1076



BALOO: A 1-year-old male Kelpie mix. He is an active free spirit with boundless energy. He is affectionate, smart, easy to train, and is already conquering the agility course. Cononino Humane Association 928-526-1076

(Rescue Tales continued from page 15)

**HAPPY
ENDINGS &
NEW
BEGINNINGS**



Potential pet adopters frequently ask about the breed of the cat or dog. The reality is, the Verde Valley Humane Society seldom knows these precious animals' parentage. With some, previous mistreatment manifests as aggression or fear. The staff works tirelessly to socialize and train these dogs, yet potential for adoption is slim.

That's why some recent messages were so heartwarming. Proud pet owner, Gerard, wrote, "Thank you so much for Issy, the world's best dog. I keep telling everyone how lucky I am to have adopted her."

"She has been with me two weeks now and we are in love. She walks perfectly on a leash, house-trained, the smartest dog I have ever had, and I've had dogs all my life. How this wonderful dog wasn't claimed is beyond my understanding. She has filled my life with companionship and love and has made

the loss of my wife less painful. Thank you so much."

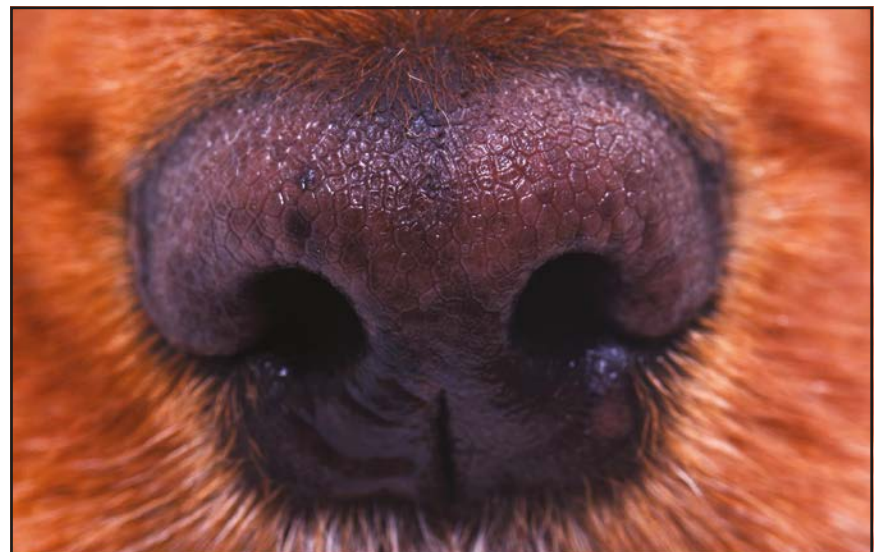
Another happy dog parent, Spencer, wrote, "I'm sure you don't remember me, but I came in 4 years ago to find a dog and I left with Caleverra, a 2-year-old 85 lbs. Staffy who was under quarantine."

"We had a rough first few months with (now Calian) attacking other dogs. But over time he learned to socialize and now has many dog friends and goes to the dog park without incident for over 2 years."

I wanted to reach out and tell you, thank you so much for keeping him in your shelter prior to us meeting and keeping him alive. He has changed my life, I truly can't imagine where I would be without him. Thank you again :)"



Challenges continue into the New Year: scores of abandoned animals and fewer adoptions, rising costs of pet food, medical treatment, and supplies. Still, when I learn of happy endings and new beginnings, I am grateful that together, we help to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for these cherished animals until they find their way into the loving hearts of their forever families.



GOT A NOSE FOR NEWS?

KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO TELL A GOOD STORY?

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL WITH YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION,
A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF YOUR EXPERIENCE,
AND ATTACH A WRITING SAMPLE.
EMAIL TO INFO@REDDOGPUBLISHING.NET

RESCUE TALES & DOGS FOR ADOPTION



WALLACE & STELLA are 3-month-old kittens who love each other very much, so they need to go as a bonded pair. Wallace is a big orange male goof who loves to play and then cuddle. Stella is a dark tortoiseshell with splashes of bright orange. She is also very playful and affectionate.
High Country Humane
928-526-0742



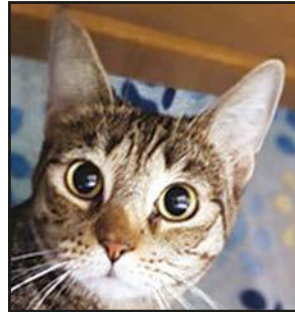
FEDORA: A beautiful black lady with big green eyes. a shy girl who was abandoned by her owners. She takes a while to warm up but once in her forever home she will come around. High Country Humane
928-526-0742



ETHEL: A sweet older lady wants to find a home with a family to love and be loved in return, with warm beds and big windows to birdwatch from. High Country Humane
928-526-0742



MARY: A beautiful 4-year-old female cream ticked tabby with big gold eyes. She is a sweet and gentle lap cat who loves to be petted. She gets along with other mellow cats. Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



PENNY: A 1-year-old brown tabby female with big green eyes. She is super sweet and super affectionate. She will be your lifelong friend if you let her.
Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



CLEOPATRA: A beautiful dark tortoiseshell lady with bright orange splashes and big golden eyes. She is 2 years old and wonderfully affectionate. She gets along with mellow dogs and other cats. Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



CLAUDIA: A striking 6-month-old female, black with white trim and big green eyes. She is a funny, cuddly girl who loves to play. She gets along well with other cats.
Humane Society of Sedona
928-282-4679



AUTUMN: A young adult black lady with the cutest mustache! She is very sweet and a total lap cat who just wants to be loved on. She is very smart and extremely playful.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



KINK: A charming black male kitten. Please contact the Verde Valley Humane Society for further information
928-634-7387



WISP: A charming young orange male with big copper eyes. He is sweet, funny, and good with other cats.
Verde Valley Humane Society
928-634-7387



TICTOK: A 3-year-old male Bengal, bronze and white with big blue eyes. He is royalty, and he will not share his kingdom with other cats. But he loves people. He is very smart and very active. Coconino Humane Association
928-526-1076

BE ON THE SIDE OF GOOD NEWS!

BE ON THE SIDE OF LIFE!

BE ON THE SIDE OF VICTORY!



Support the news of area rescues

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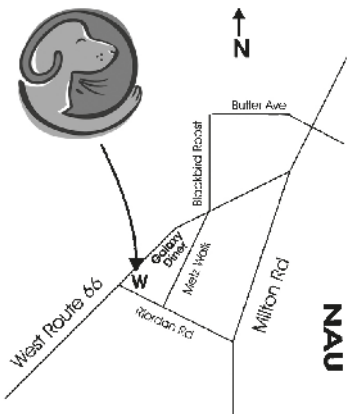
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Valentine's Day Travel with Your Sweet Pup

By Stacey Wittig



The Langham Huntington Hotel, Pasadena.
Courtesy photo.

Valentine's Day is a special occasion made even better when you can share it with your furry friend. So if you're planning a trip with your pet for Valentine's Day, here are some woof-worthy destinations to consider:

Pasadena, California: Pasadena is a pet-friendly city with a number of dog-friendly parks, trails, and restaurants, making it easy to celebrate Valentine's Day with your pampered pup. The sunny town also has many pet-friendly hotels and vacation rentals, making finding a place to stay easy.

May we recommend The Langham Huntington? They'll pamper your four-legged traveling companion with in-room use of a luxurious Langham pink porcelain pet bowl, a plush pink bed pillow, and The Langham Huntington Doggie Newsletter, filled with activities for you and your pup.

Orlando, Florida: Orlando is another pet-friendly city with many dog-friendly parks, trails, and restaurants, as well as many dog-friendly hotels and vacation rentals. In fact, Orlando ranks fifth in the nation for its number of VRBO pet-friendly accommodation listings.



Photo by Matthew Lancaster on Unsplash.

The city is also home to Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming franchise, which offers delicious natural treats, professional grooming services, and more.

Austin, Texas: Austin is known for its laid-back, pet-friendly vibe, with numerous parks, trails, and even a few dog-friendly bars. The city also has many pet-friendly hotels and vacation rentals, making it easy to find a place to stay with your four-legged buddy.

Charleston, South Carolina: Charleston is a charming city with a rich history and dog-friendly attractions, including parks, trails, and even a few dog-friendly restaurants. You might even be able to reserve a pet-friendly bed and breakfast.

Many bed and breakfasts now offer pet-friendly rooms, making it easy to celebrate Valentine's Day in a cozy, romantic setting with your top dog. Just be sure to call ahead and ensure the BnB allows pets before you go.

San Diego, California: San Diego is a pet-friendly city with many dog-friendly parks, trails, restaurants, and breweries. Get your toes and paws in the sand by visiting one of San Diego's many dog-friendly beaches. Go off-leash at the North Beach Dog Run at Coronado, with incredible harbor views. Alternatively, play Frisbee or fetch at nationally-renowned Dog Beach, one of the first official off-leash beaches in the country.

Nashville, Tennessee: Nashville is a music-filled city that is also great for pet owners seeking Valentine's get-aways. The city boasts many pet-friendly rooms, making it easy to celebrate Valentine's Day with your fur baby by your side. Look for hotels that offer unique pet-friendly amenities, such as dog beds, treats, and doggy room service.

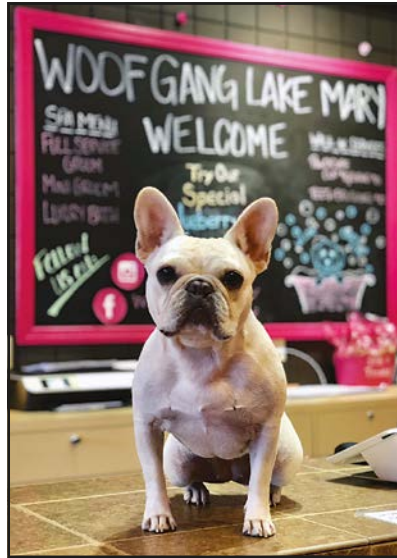


Photo courtesy of Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming.

Denver, Colorado: Denver is a fantastic city for globe trotters, with many dog-friendly patios at restaurants and breweries, pet-friendly hotels, and vacation rentals. In addition, countless trails and parks allow canine companions, and many offer breathtaking views that are perfect for a romantic outing. Just be sure to follow any rules and regulations regarding pets on the trail.

Palm Springs, California: Palm Springs is a Certified City in the Better Cities for Pets program. They continuously adapt new ways to improve how pets and pet owners live, work, and play. As a result, dog-accompanied patrons can celebrate Valentine's at a variety of pet-friendly boutique hotels and locally-owned restaurants, some named after the owner's dog. So check out Spencer's, Jake's, or Boozehounds for doggie-welcoming dining.

Traveling with your favorite four-legged friend can be fun and rewarding for Valentine's Day or any day. However, preparation is always essential to good travel experiences, so be sure to call ahead to double-check pet policies and bring plenty of treats, food, and water for the journey.

Stacey Wittig shares travel tips and inspiration at her website, unstoppablestaceytravel.com, where you can subscribe to learn more.



Photo by Karsten Winegeart on Unsplash.

Airpark Animal Hospital

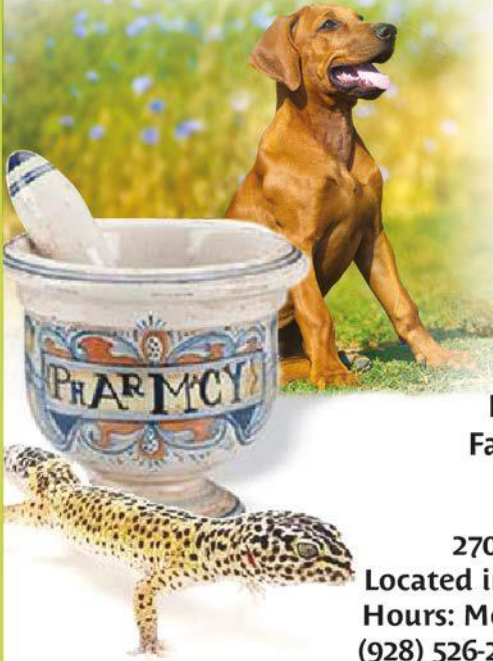


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'Miracle Drops' Save Precious

By Caleb Wright, Owner of Orozona Oils

My aging Hispanic grandmother, affectionately named Weta, called one day desperate for help with her overweight Dachshund, Precious, who had fallen off the steps to the bed and hurt her spine, causing paralysis. When I arrived, Precious was dragging her hindquarters and was in obvious distress.

At Weta's request, I took Precious to the vet where x-rays revealed a herniated disc, as well as high levels of enzymes in her liver. They prescribed prednisone and offered the dim hope that she wouldn't walk again for many weeks.



Precious, unable to use her hindquarters.

Concerned about the high levels of enzymes and the compounding negative side-effects of prednisone, Weta decided to try the "miracle drops" instead.

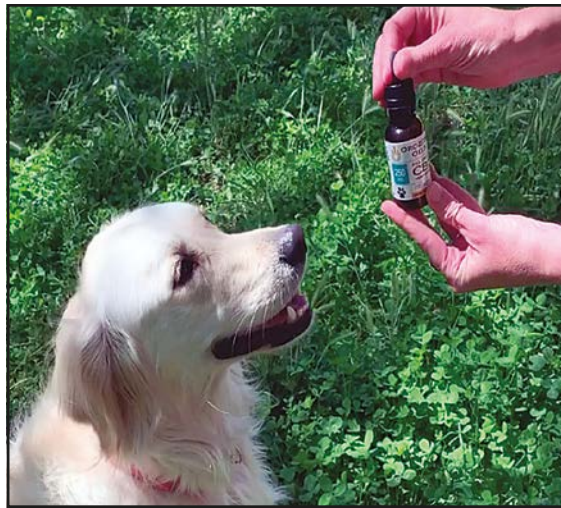
She called them miracle drops because she personally knew the powerful, cell-nourishing results of taking high quality full-spectrum CBD herself. She had been taking the drops regularly to ease the pain of MS, Lupus, frequent muscle spasms, and chronic, systemic inflammation. It had helped her tremendously without any negative side-effects, drowsiness, or high of any kind, so she intuitively knew Precious would do well with it, also.

She was right. Within two days of beginning a CBD regimen, Precious was walking again! She was going in and out of her doggy door and even up and down the steps to the bed. After a week, no one would have known there was ever a problem!

Weta kept Precious on a daily dose of CBD oil for years, until she eventually and peacefully died of old age. Weta is on the other side now, too. But I have the assurance that my CBD increased the quality of both of their lives until it was their natural time to go.

While visiting the beach in Costa Rica one year, I met a young family with an elderly once-in-a-lifetime lab named Marlee. She was having trouble enjoying her beach walks and would frequently have to sit down. Like most people these days, the family was familiar with CBD and had even tried it on their dog, with limited results.

I asked if they would be willing to try my brand of organic, full-spectrum hemp extract on Marlee. They agreed and began administering it immediately. After just days they reported that she was doing far better than expected, not just walking but running again, and had even jumped into the back of the truck!



My dog, Winnie, getting her daily dose of full-spectrum CBD.

Being in this industry for nearly eight years, I have heard multitudes of heartwarming testimonials regarding the benefits of quality, full-spectrum hemp oil. From Great Danes to Chihuahuas, Retrievers to Cavaliers, the benefits of hemp-derived CBD are experienced by them all. The following is an excerpt from a letter I received from a Cavalier owner:

"Both of my Cavaliers have Syringomyelia, and your CBD oil is their main source of pain control. The typical medications prescribed for this horrible condition caused lethargy, gastrointestinal upset, drooling, loose stools, no desire to eat, hiding in corners, and the list goes on.

"I worked very hard for many weeks to change their lives, and Orozona Oils CBD along with other supplements and alternative therapies, acupuncture, and cold laser, have completely changed their lives for the better. We walk 2-3 miles a day, swim, play ball, huge love for food, and just overall such happy girls. I wish others could open their minds to seeking alternative pain control methods".

~Lynn R. Brighton, MI

Why Do Some CBD Products Work So Well, While Others Underperform?

Why do some CBD products seem to do nothing or have limited results, while other products completely change the lives of those consuming it? I've identified three main contributors that correspond to efficacy: potency, processing, and purity.

To start with, there are varying potencies of CBD oil, along with the need to determine proper individual dosing. Think of gasoline: you can buy different octanes of fuel that burn more or less efficiently. Or how about alcohol: you can buy a 3.2% beer or a 9% beer. Both are 12 ounces of hopped-up suds, but one will have a more pronounced effect versus the other. However, don't fall prey to thinking that more is always better; 99% pure CBD (isolate) performs far below the bar set by a full-spectrum oil of, say, 25-35% potency.

Once you've identified a quality full-spectrum oil with adequate CBD potency, you must dial in your ideal dose. We approach this by weight or severity of the condition, along with experimentation. Since CBD is non-toxic, it's practically impossible to overdose, so taking too much during the experiment is not to be feared. Once you discover the ideal dose,

simply remain consistent and take it daily. I like to split the dosing, taking 1/2 in the morning and 1/2 in the evening.

Another thing to consider is the amount and type of processing the plant material is exposed to. As a general rule, the more refined a product, the less effective it becomes. A good example is white bread. It's not exactly a health food, especially when compared to sprouted whole-grain bread.

The CBD products that are mass-produced are mostly made with highly refined, isolated CBD called Isolate; it's like white bread. All of the other (mostly oil-based) constituents of the hemp plant have been stripped away using solvents and other harsh methods, leaving behind a white, water-soluble powder. It's popular because it has no taste and can easily be formulated into treats, beverages, and other foods. It's also cheaper to produce.

The downside is that it doesn't work as good or linger in the system like a less-refined, full-spectrum, hemp oil that has been extracted using clean methods, such as wiped-film evaporation or super-critical CO2. The reason for this is that the lipids in the hemp oil bond with the lipids in the body, where they are absorbed and can provide systemic cellular nutrition to the entire body. Water-based isolates wash over the cells but can't efficiently absorb into them like oil-based CBD can. It's literally asking water to bond with oil.

A full-spectrum oil has what's known as an entourage effect. This means that when a group of constituents from the hemp plant remains in the extracted oil, they assist one another in a synergistic way that enables uptake and efficacy in the body. It may have a bitter herb or earthy taste, but CBD shouldn't be consumed for the flavor, but for the benefits! This brings us to our third point...

The third factor is purity. It's common to see products loaded with too many and/or the wrong ingredients in an attempt to mask the strong flavor of full-spectrum hemp extract. Complex formulas can slow the absorption process and diminish the potential effects of the CBD. Artificial flavors, preservatives, colorings, textures, and sugars can also get in the way of metabolizing—countering the effects of CBD and compromising its purity.

Another thing to consider is that when CBD is exposed to high temperatures for too long, it evaporates, reducing its strength. That's why I stay away from most CBD treats. Also take into consideration the quality and processing methods of any other ingredients that are present.

In my opinion, any viable CBD company will exist not just to make money, but to support those who are serious about pursuing systemic, cellular health via natural plant essence. I recommend looking for products that promote bioavailability and are formulated with only a couple of organic, non-GMO ingredients, free from preservatives, additives, flavorings, sugars, etc. Full-spectrum hemp extract with a 25-35% CBD content delivered in one other clean oil is your best bet. Pass up the flavored products, baked treats, and isolated CBD. They're gimmicky and will leave you disappointed, where instead you could experience a lifechanging story like those above, and like Weta told of Precious.

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