



Ruff Times



Volume II Issue 5

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

January 2013

In this issue:

Pg 2: Animal Communicator; Coyotes & Pets

Pg 3: Mayor Max

Pg 4: Speakers' Series Schedule; Sadie Says

Pg 5: Trainer Talk: Traveling w/ Pets

Pg 6: Successful Year for ARF

Pg 7: Baxter's Buddies - Chance

Pg 9: Adoptees of the Month

Pg 10: Fortunate Felines; Dog Safety Quiz



Director's Message

Resolutions and Promises

Happy 2013 to all of our Idyllwild community. Resolutions are written for the new year, promises made and often broken before we know it. In the blink of an eye, January is almost over. That leaves only 11 months in this year to carry out our goals and commitments to the orphans that come through our door and into our village.

We were able to achieve several new goals and promises last year. The mayoral election fundraiser allowed us to have funds to cover operating costs for a year, but best of all it gave us Mayor Max. We now have a certified animal trainer on the ARF board and a certified first aid trainer and specialist for animal emergencies. The Sadie's Clinic Speaker Series are continuing free of charge for the community as is veterinary assistance at Sadie's Clinic for those in need. Micro-chips were administered with no cost and will be offered at a discounted rate in 2013. Our newsletter is committed to reach out to the community, offering tips on health care for animals, seasonal updates, animals available for adoption, and upcoming events. Our thanks to those who add their business cards to offset our printing fees.

ARF's resolutions for 2013 are to not only continue the steps we have made in 2012, but to strengthen and widen that paw print, always having the animals lives and futures as the ultimate goal.

And most important of all, when each cat, kitten, dog or puppy enters through our door, we promise that when they exit through our door, they will be safe, healthy and loved forever. And this is a promise that will NEVER be broken.



A non-profit organization

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Director of Operations: Maria Lehman

Treasurer: Mary Lou Prosin

Search & Rescue Director: Robert Hewitt

Secretary: Janice Murasko

Sadie's Clinic Director: Caryn Gilbert

Newsletter Editor: Janice Murasko

Speakers' Series

Communicator to Help Pet Owners, Pets

Nan Arthur, trainer and author, shared insights about dogs and aggression on January 6 as part of the Sadie's Clinic Speakers' Series. Approximately 30 hill residents learned what can cause aggression in dogs and what owners can do about it.

On Saturday, January 19, Dr. Monica Dierich (petcommunicator.com) will address interspecies communication at the Nature Center. Using her intuitive gift, with heartfelt love, she enables her clients to participate in a dialogue with their pets by helping them look at their pets' experiences from the animal's point of view. After a consultation, they're better able to understand their pet's wishes, needs, fears, behavioral problems, health challenges, or end

-of-life requests.

Dr. Monica feels that her two greatest accomplishments come from bringing physical, emotional and spiritual healing to as many animals as possible, and from teaching people, who have an especially deep bond with their pets, to communicate effectively with them, which helps improve the quality of their pets' everyday lives.

Speakers' series events are free to all and will be held at Mountain Pawlytechnic Canine Education at 23400 Hwy 243 in Pine Cove *except for the January 19 event, which will be held at the Nature Center.* Please see the entire schedule on page 4 of this newsletter.



Living Among Coyotes; Keeping People and Pets Safe

Living in the mountains poses many unique challenges, one of those being the safety of pets. Just recently a mountain family suffered the trauma of losing a beloved pet to a coyote. This sad event reminds all mountain residents that being coyote aware is crucial.

Project Coyote (projectcoyote.org) offers sensible tips to those who encounter coyotes. On its web site, this organization shares facts about coyotes along with safety tips. The first tip listed, in all caps, is **DON'T FEED COYOTES**. About feeding coyotes, the organization says the safety of humans and the lives of these wild animals depends upon their remaining wild and being naturally wary of people. They encourage people to remove attractants, pick up trash, secure garbage, and feed pets inside. And it goes without saying that pets should not be left outside at night.

The Project also emphasizes the importance of walking dogs on leashes, and if a coyote is spotted while walking a small dog,



the small dog should be picked up immediately and carried.

Project Coyote advises making noise and walking toward a coyote that approaches. Do not run! "Be Big, Bad, and Loud."

It is also important to recognize that even pets in a fenced yard are at risk. DesertUSA.com explains that coyotes use their front paws on the top of a fence and use their hind legs to propel themselves over the barrier.

Fences should be at least 5 to 6 feet tall and made of brick, cement blocks, wood or net -- wire. Extenders to the top of the fence that extend outward 15 to 20" will prevent coyotes from climbing the fence. Coyote rollers at along the top of the fence will keep coyotes and other wildlife from gripping the top of the fence to climb it. Desert USA also emphasizes that **PEOPLE SHOULD NOT FEED COYOTES**.

Mountain residents need to work together to promote safety in living among coyotes.





Mayor Max Muses

Phyllis, my Chief of Staff, was a little slow on the uptake the other day, but it had a good outcome!

We were at the Idyllwild Post Office, and there was a litter of puppies being given away by two people who had the puppies outside in a penned area. That would normally be fine, but it was about 20 degrees outside that day, and the dogs were shivering violently and did not have on any kind of protection, coats, or blankets. Since the dogs were very young, and I'm estimating maybe 8-10 weeks old at the most, they did not have much fur.

To Phyllis and to anyone that can imagine what it feels like to stand outside for 6 hours in 20-degree weather with no coat or protective clothing of any kind, this is a clear case of animal abuse. If you did it to a child, it would be child abuse.

Most people know this, but if you don't know it, you can easily research it. "The **first** warning

sign of **hypothermia** is uncontrollable shivering."

Phyllis immediately confronted the owners and said the dogs were too cold and needed to be kept warm. The owners ignored Phyllis's request entirely.

Phyllis then thought she needed someone in authority to handle this, so she called four different organizations in Idyllwild, all of whom said there was nothing they could do, it was not their charter, or call someone else.

Phyllis then realized that it's crazy to ask someone for help when she was obviously the one that was meant to handle this situation. So what to do?

She decided to take her cell phone and video them abusing the dogs, and while doing so, approached them with a notepad and pen. She made sure they saw she was videoing them. She then got within two feet of the owners and said, "I am reporting you for animal abuse." And, she started to write.

They packed up the puppies and left within 3 minutes. They were very unhappy and made some unkind comments to which Phyllis replied, "All I asked you to do was get the puppies warm. Had you done that, I would not be reporting you."

Phyllis made sure they saw her writing down their license plate number which she has and is including in her reports to many local and national animal abuse organizations.

In speaking with other locals about this, Phyllis was told that these two individuals are animal hoarders from Anza, and this is a regular occurrence. She was also told that the puppies were being given away for two days at the Post Office. Phyllis felt bad that the puppies had to freeze for two days, and she knows the hoarders probably just changed venues—but hopefully to a warmer place, and at least the puppies got a warm-up break!

In closing, I, Mayor Max, would like to say this:

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Sadie Says

Make New Year's Resolutions for Your Pets

Sadie says, "Let's make a few New Year's Resolutions for the welfare of our pets! Remember, our dogs and cats cannot take care of their own needs. They depend upon their owners' good judgment for their welfare."

Sadie has come up with ten resolutions that will benefit all cats and dogs, and she hopes you'll make them your own.

#1: MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR VET FOR A WELLNESS CHECK. Include a dental exam. Make sure vaccines are up-to-date. Find out your pet's ideal weight and strive to keep that under control.

#2: Resolve to provide your dog with monthly **HEARTWORM PREVENTION** all year long.

#3: Promise to **MICROCHIP YOUR PETS AND REGISTER THE INFORMATION**, even indoor-only dogs and cats.

#4: PET-PROOF YOUR HOME, making it a safe, poison-free place for your cat or dog.

#5: Make the time to **GROOM** more often and **EXTEND PLAY TIME**. A healthy, adult dog

needs two 30 minute sessions of aerobic exercise...cats, too.

#6: Read the INGREDIENTS IN YOUR PET FOOD; make sure it provides a well-balanced, high quality diet. Would you want to eat by-products? Neither does your pet.

#7: Take a PET FIRST AID CLASS so you can be prepared in an emergency. ARF's Barb Reese is a certified instructor and will be offering classes soon.

#8: Include your pets in the family **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN**.

#9: For the well-being of your pets and our community, **SPAY/NEUTER!** Encourage friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

#10: For the sake of your pet, your family, and your community, invest in **POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT TRAINING**. You'll be glad you did! Mt. Pawlytechnic Canine Education has classes to fit your needs and pet issues. 🐾



Speakers' Series Schedule

JANUARY 19: Dr. Monica Diedrich, Pet Communicator *Inter-Species Communication* On this day, Dr. Diedrich will be working with individuals and their pets, as well as speaking 12:30-2:00. Petcommunicator.com (NOTE: This event will be held at the Nature Center. Dr. Diedrich's individual consultations are completely booked for this event.)

FEBRUARY 17: Dr. Susan Foster *Energy Healing (Reiki)* PhD. in Clinical Psychology

MARCH 24: Margarat Nee *K9 Wellness Support, Nutrition for Dogs* theartofdog.com

APRIL 21: Janice Murasko *Safety First! Children and Dogs* [Bring your kids!](http://Bringyourkids!mtpawly.com)
mtpawly.com

Speakers' Series events will be held at Mountain Pawlytechnic Canine Education, 23400 Hwy 243 in Pine Cove, 3 to 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. These events are free of charge and open to everyone. Please, no dogs. Questions? shelab@greencafe.com or janicemurasko@yahoo.com.

Trainer Talk

Traveling Safely With Pets...Revisited

Recently, a Riverside County family was traumatized not only by a terrible car accident, but also by the disappearance of their beloved family dog who was in the car at the time of the accident. The dog was not secured in the car, and once the wrecked car had settled on the mountainside, the dog fled. Fortunately for this family, the dog is a tough one and survived the elements for nearly two weeks before it found its way to the doorstep of a good Samaritan.

Back in September 2011, I wrote an article for this newsletter about traveling safely with your dog. In light of this terrible accident and many others like it, I think this is a good time to reprint it. Please read on and seriously consider the suggestions.

For many of us, our pets are an integral part of the family, so much so that Fido or Fluffy join us on vacation, on quick jaunts to the market, or to the beach for a day of fun. And even those of us who opt out on taking the family pet on vacation or excursions will inevitably take it in the car to the vet. But sadly, many responsible pet owners fail their four-legged family members when it comes to transportation. A pet in the car, especially a dog, can become a projectile in the case of a sudden stop or accident, potentially injuring not only the pet, but human occupants in the car as well.

According to Barkbuckleup.com, a 60-lb. unrestrained dog traveling at 35 mph can cause an impact of 2,700 lbs., slamming into a seat, windshield, or passenger! Even a small Chihuahua or Yorkie can suffer severe trauma or cause injury to others in the case of an accident or sudden stop.

What can be done to protect pets traveling in automobiles? Restraint! We wouldn't consider allowing our children to ride unrestrained by either a car seat or a seat belt. We need to offer the same protection to our pets. There are several options for comfortable, safe restraints for dogs and cats.

Pet Barriers: Available in a variety of sizes for wagons, minivans, or SUVs, a barrier gives your

pet some room to move, but keeps it safely contained behind the rear seat.

Harnesses: There are two basic harnesses available for dogs.

Both types involve a simple harness, but one is



connected directly to the seat by the belt, while the other allows for movement by the dog. This harness is attached to a tether, which is attached to a "zip line" that is stretched between either two grab-handles

(the kind you might see in a truck or SUV) or connected to the tongue on two seat belts. This harness will allow your dog to move from side to side, or window to window.



Crates: A crate, secured in the back portion of an SUV or mini-van will keep your pet restrained and protected from being projected in the case of an accident.

Another important consideration in harnessing your dog is the very real possibility of its escaping the auto in the case of an accident and being loose on a road, or worse, a freeway. Restrained pets will not sneak by you and exit the car when a door is opened, no matter where you are. And a restrained pet is less likely to injure or impair rescue personnel.

And what about transporting cats? It is fairly well accepted that cats are not as likely to warm up to the idea of traveling in a car as dogs, but there are times we must take Fluffy for a ride, to the vet for instance. How can you make the ride safe and less stressful for your kitty?

Because cats startle easily, they can easily interfere with the driver of the automobile, attempting to find a way out of the stressful situation. Therefore, cats should *always* be transported in a carrier, no matter how tame or "dog-like" they may seem. Cats can easily slip through a narrowly opened window or injure themselves while trying to



2012 a Successful Year; 2013 Promising

As another year begins, Animal Rescue Friends celebrates a successful 2012 that saw many dogs and cats finding their forever families.

In 2012, ARF helped **41 cats** and **44 dogs** find permanent, loving homes, and the hard working volunteers hope that the early days of 2013 are as good to the 10 dogs and 11 cats currently in their care.

ARF's Chipathon kept volunteers busy! Free micro-chipping for dogs was offered October through December 2012, and **56 dogs** now have secure identification should they be separated from their families. ARF is still offering micro-chipping for dogs for a reduced fee of \$15. This fee includes lifetime registration with Home Again.

Community outreach will continue to be ARF/Sadie's Clinic's focus, with the Sadie's Clinic Speakers' Series and upcoming pet first aid/CPR classes. Additionally, free positive reinforcement train-

ing classes are included with each dog adoption.

The new search and rescue program currently receives an average of four calls per week.

In February, ARF volunteers will be trained in the ASPCA "SAFER" program, which helps rescue workers assess the adoptability of rescued dogs.

And of course, volunteer recruitment, securing more foster families, and fund raising is always a priority. 



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Maybe one of your new year's resolutions should be to invest time and energy into making your dog a better member of the family!

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Baxter's Buddies

Who are Baxter's Buddies? They are his fellow ARF adoptees and their stories. Each month, Baxter will share the story of an ARF rescue, adopted into a loving, forever family.

Nel Ivancich recently caught up with me to let me know just how wonderfully her four-legged family member is doing. Nel told me a most moving story of Chance.

Three years ago I lost my twelve-year old dog, Blue, a black, short-haired mixed-breed Australian shepherd, who traveled with me almost everywhere. Blue passed away peacefully while napping.

After losing Blue I decided that I did not want any other dog. However that decision was short-lived.

After a few weeks I found it almost unbearable to be without a dog, so I tepidly started my search. At some point I came across ARF's web page and it was there that I saw a photo of Chance. He was an eleven month old Australian shepherd-border collie mix and his face and expression reminded me of Blue's.

When I first brought Chance home, he ran outside and disappeared. I could not find him despite searching around my home. I worried that he might have taken off to return to Idyllwild along the highway. I asked neighbors to keep an eye out for him and called ARF to let them know what had happened. The same volunteers who met me and brought me Chance drove to my home to help me look for him. When Chance saw their car he came out from his hiding place and rushed to greet them in my driveway. We all spent some time in my living room, so Chance would get to know the environment with

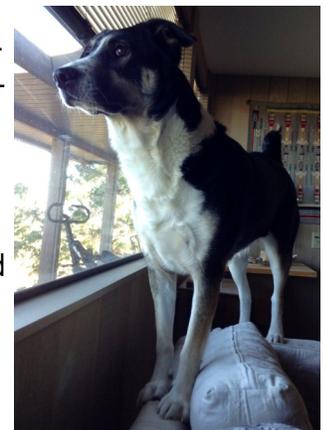


those that he knew. It seems he realized that it was alright for him to stay here with me and has never run away since.

In late November we celebrated Chance's third birthday. He has acclimated beautifully to my daily routine and I to his. He is bound to ritual and lets me know when it's time for us to take a walk. He gets me outdoors when nothing else can. He is also fond of visiting family members, and he seems to know the names of each one. And he is an outstanding watch dog. He is so affectionate and seems to try to repay me for my adopting him.

Chance is a spirited companion. He is agile on his feet and can jump off my high retaining wall or hop over the tops of bushes. He loves to chase lizards or any other crawly critter. I think he recognizes the word "coyote" and knows to stay indoors when he senses that one is close to our home. He also knows the word "food", and I am convinced he even tries to say it when it's time to feed him.

I would whole-heartedly encourage anyone who is considering pet adoption and can provide a good home for a pet to go for it. There aren't words to describe the richness of the bond between dogs and humans. I know that my life would lose a big chunk of meaning and pleasure were it not for taking that Chance. 🐾





Emily

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Trainer Talk continued...Traveling Safely With Your Pets

flee. And should this happen, the driver might instinctively try to calm the loose cat while driving. Yikes!

Introduce Fluffy to the carrier well in advance of the next scheduled ride in the car. Let Fluffy explore the carrier, and consider offering a treat to encourage her entering the crate on her own. Do your best to help Fluffy have positive associations with the carrier. Use it at times other than when you are traveling. Maybe feed her in there, or place her favorite toy or treat in the carrier. You may also want to consider spraying the carrier with synthetic feline facial pheromones (Feliway) about 30 minutes before beginning travel. This spray can be applied to the towel or bedding in the carrier to induce a state of calm and content in your cat.

These restraints and carriers are available at any pet store and from many online pet suppliers. Isn't your pet's safety (and yours!) worth the investment?

And some last safety advice: Letting Fido stick his head out of the car window is a BAD idea! Dust, pollen, dirt, debris, and gravel are kept in motion by winds and traffic. Your pet's soft tissues (eyes, mouth, ears, throat, etc.) are no match for a piece of gravel hurling through the air! If it is hot, turn on the air conditioning, or open only windows inaccessible to your pet. And be sure to use the child-lock on your car's windows. Fido can accidentally put weight on the window's down button, and what happens next is anyone's guess.

Leash your pet before opening the car door: Keeping your pet on a leash is not only a law, but it is an act of common sense and common courtesy. Your pet could easily break away unexpectedly and run away. And a dog bolting from a car can be very frightening, and possibly dangerous, to an innocent bystander. 🐾

-Janice Murasko
KPA-CTP APDT

Mayor Max Muses continued...

There is always something YOU can do about it. Don't delegate everything to other people. Step in and take immediate action.

When did you first allow yourself to think that someone is more able than you are or should be handling things for you because you are not able to do so?

How dead and cold-hearted do you have to be to allow puppies to shiver like that and stay in a perpetual state of hypothermia?

Please be sensitive to how animals feel. The hoarders had on coats, and the hoarders were not shivering. The puppies were virtually naked and violently shivering from head to foot.

It is very ignorant and unobservant to think that others are feeling like you are feeling. If you are warm, that does not mean that others are warm. If you have on a coat in 20-degree weather, you may survive for quite a while. If you allow yourself to stay in a perpetual state of violent shivering, you will die from **hypothermia**. So will those puppies.

If you see someone shivering like that, human or pet, take immediate action.

If you see ANY form of animal abuse, take immediate action.

As individuals, we very likely all became less able on the first moment of the first day that we thought someone else had to handle something for us rather than ourselves stepping in and handling the situation, whatever it was.

Don't let things ride and wait for the authorities. Don't be a victim to your own thoughts that you are not responsible or that someone else should handle the situation for you.

Take Action. Stop animal abuse, and put yourself in another person's paws. You know how it feels. Don't ignore it.

Love always,



Mayor Max aka: Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller



Help them find a home

Adoptees of the Month



P
U
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SANDY



OLIVIA



NOAH



DILLON

The word is out..THERE ARE PUPPIES AT ARF!!!! Three of them!

One girl, two boys, and momma too!

Introducing Sandy and her babies, Noah, Dillon, and Olivia, who were named in memory of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary and of three of the children who lost their lives too soon.

Sandy has her girlish figure back and is ready for a less hectic home, complete with other four-leggeds, canine or feline.

And puppy love speaks for itself. Get it now while they are still young. Learning every day, these little furballs are already in puppy school. And they are ready for you to visit and fall in love. They have New Year's Promises, too, to always stay faithful and by your side forever. 🐾



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When you need a warm furry tuxedo cat to warm your heart and your toes, Midnight is your man. Abandoned as his family walked away, he is friendly, playful, quiet, and has eyes only for you. He is young enough to enjoy a little cat and mouse time, but mature enough to calmly cuddle and wait for you to love him. Be assured that when the clock strikes midnight, you'll know where Midnight the cat is. 🐾



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Fortunate Felines Find Their Forever Homes



How Safe are Your Dogs?

Are you a safety-conscious dog owner? Take this quiz to find out.

1. On how many levels is this a terrible, possibly tragic situation?

- 1
- 2
- none
- too many to count



2. Which of these foods is/are a serious health risk for your dog? Choose all that apply.

- raisins
- carrots
- cat food
- pennies
- milk
- cooked eggs

3. Which of the following situations are fraught with danger for your dog?

- allowing it to remain outdoors all night
- off-leash walking
- use of retractable leash
- leashed on porch/yard during daytime
- all of the above

4. True or False: My dog should have a form of identification on it at all times (tag, chip).

5. True or False: Underground fences are a good alternative to traditional aboveground types.

ANSWERS

- D** For starters, California laws requires dog owners who transport dogs in the bed of a pickup to crate or cross-tie the dog, unless the sides of the truck bed are at least 46" deep. Regardless, what happens to the dog if the truck rolls or is crushed? What prevents the dog from injury by flying debris?
- A, C, D, E** Raisins (grapes) are toxic to dogs, and cat food and milk can make him ill. Pennies, aside from being a choking hazard (as is any coin), is toxic because of the zinc.
- F** Allowing your dog to remain outdoors at night and leashing it outside (even during the day) unnecessarily subjects her to attack by predators. There are coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions on this hill that would thank you for giving them the opportunity to dine on your dog. Think twice about walking your dog off leash. Even dogs with the very best of recall often aren't able to resist a deer, squirrel, or worse. *Can you 100% GUARANTEE your dog's recall?* It's doubtful. Retractable leashes are dangerous. Many dogs have been hit by cars when bolting into traffic when the lock on the leash was not set properly or failed.
- True.** Even if Fido is indoors a majority of the time, what happens when the back door is inadvertently left open?
- False.** Even with underground fences (where the dog needs to wear a collar which shocks him if he crosses the underground electrified wire/boundary), the dog needs to be trained. Many dogs learn to outsmart the fence by running quickly through the boundary (choosing to endure the shock), and the collar can malfunction, which shocks the dog for no apparent reason. Additionally, shocking your dog is considered abusive by many. But most important to understand is that the underground fence DOES NOT KEEP OUT PREDATORS, wildlife or human.



Sadie's Clinic Speakers' Series

Saturday, January 19

Dr. Monica Diedrich

*Interspecies
Communication*

12:30 - 2:00 @ Nature Center

Dr. Monica feels that her two greatest accomplishments come from bringing physical, emotional and spiritual healing to as many animals as possible, and from teaching people, who have an especially deep bond with their pets, to communicate effectively with them, which helps improve the quality of their pets' everyday lives. Petcommunicator.com