



Volume IV Issue 8

Ruff Times



Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

June 2015

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Director's Message

Adopted Pets Celebrate Freedom

Happy 4th of July to our village of Idyllwild and to the surrounding communities. As we celebrate our holiday, we are thankful for the freedom we exercise as humans. But let us remember the canines and felines who are not so fortunate to be free. They stay enclosed in cages in the numerous shelters waiting for a chance, for just one human to say "Let's go for a ride in the car." ARF extends it gratitude to the animal lovers who extended their hands to hold a paw and gave the unfortunates a forever home.

So far this year, these ARF canines and felines have embarked on their "FREEDOM RIDE"

Juliet, Buddy, Sydney, Griffin, Zydeco, Katnis, Peeta, and Rue Tommy, Boomer, Poppy, Ernie, Wilson, Dusty, Daisy, and Petunia.

It's not too late for YOU to make a wish come true for a shelter/rescue pet. Your furever pet is waiting!!



A non-profit organization

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arfidyllwild.weebly.com

Director of Operations: Maria Lehman
Secretary, Editor: Janice Murasko
Treasurer: Mary Lou Prosin
Search & Rescue Director: Robert Hewitt

President: Chris Martin
Vice-President: Teri Hardy
Sadie's Clinic Director: Claudine Ellis
Grants Chairperson: Bill Walker

Preparing for a Safe Summer

Summer is here and with it comes inherent dangers for your pets, but you can take measures to ensure your cats and dogs remain safe.

HEAT STROKE: Working up a good sweat in the hot summer months may be good for you, but it can lead to heat stroke in your pet and kill him in a matter of minutes. Your dog cannot sweat! Stroke is a dangerous condition that takes the lives of many animals every year.

Your pet's normal body temperature is 99.5 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. If it rises to 105 or 106 degrees, the pet is at risk for developing heat exhaustion. If the body temperature rises to 107 degrees, your pet has entered the dangerous zone of heat stroke. With heat stroke, irreversible damage and death can occur.

There are several things you can do to prevent heat related problems for your pet:

Monitor outdoor temperature and minimize your pet's activity on hot, humid days.

Remove the pet from the hot area immediately.

Limit sun exposure during the hours of 11 AM to 3 PM on hot days.

Walk or exercise your pet in the morning or evening.

Keep your pet in a comfortable environment (air-conditioned room or partially open windows with a breeze)

during extremely hot weather.

NEVER leave your pet in a car (even with the windows partially rolled down) for any reason at any time. Leaving pets in a car during warm (not hot) weather is the most common cause of heat stroke.

Provide your pet with plenty of fresh water and plenty of shade. Take extra care with puppies and kittens.

If possible, allow your pet to acclimate gradually to high temperatures. Heat illness is common in the spring when the animal has not had sufficient time to acclimate to the warmer temperatures.

After traveling to a warmer climate, allow your pet several days to become acclimated before allowing any vigorous exercise.

Make sure outside cats and dogs have access to shade.

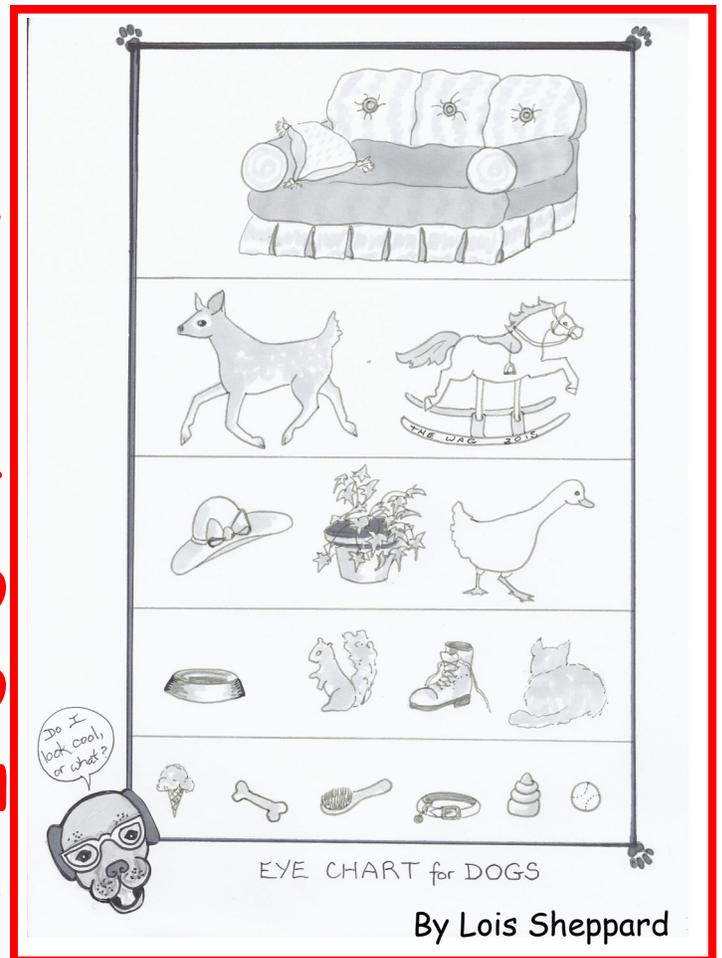
Allow your cat and dog to have access to cooler areas of the house.

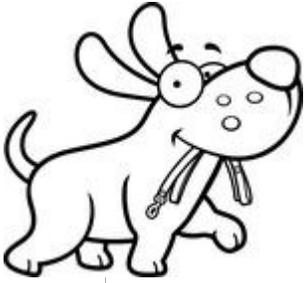
RATTLESNAKES: Rattlesnakes are a fact of life in many areas of So Cal, especially up here on the mountain. A strike of one of these snakes can easily be the end of the line for your beloved pet. Being prepared takes education about avoidance and – most importantly – a trip to the vet .

Continued on page 6



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**Mark your Calendar!
Prepare your Pooch!!**



Strut Your Mutt

It's Idyllwild's version of the AKC Westminster Show!

Enter your **mutt** in one of five categories:
*extra small, small, medium, large, extra large**

A panel of judges will choose the "best" of each size.

The five "Best of Size" will then compete for BEST IN SHOW.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of Best of Size and Best in Show.

Entrants must meet the following guidelines:

1. Dog must be a mutt (Sorry, but no AKC recognized breeds)*
2. Dog must be well-behaved in the presence of people and other dogs
3. No costumes
4. All dogs must be on a leash at all times
5. Each dog must have its own handler

How does Strut Your Mutt work?

The handler will "strut" his/her mutt in a large circle in front of a panel of judges. Judges will consider:

- Grooming/appearance
- Well-mannered while walking with handler
- Personality
- Hygiene and modesty (refrains from pottying while in the ring)

HOW TO ENTER YOUR MUTT

Register your mutt at the ARF Booth at the July 4 Festival no later than 1:00 p.m., pay your entry fee of \$10, and get your contestant number. Competition will commence at 2:00.

Pure bred dogs are invited to enter the Crazy Dog-Tricks contest.

***Size categories:**

X-small 2-9 lbs small 9-35 lbs medium 35-65 lbs
large 55-75 lbs. X large 75+ lbs.





July 4 Festival Crazy Dog-Tricks Competition

Start practicing now! Show the world just how talented your favorite four-legged can be!

Crazy Dog-Tricks Rules

- ANY dog of any breed (mutts, purebreds, etc.) may enter.
- Each entrant will be allowed to perform one trick or concise set of tricks.
- Because we love dogs, each dog will be allowed several "do-overs" if necessary.
- Each entrant must be registered no later than 1:45 p.m. on July 4.
- All entrants must be "ready to go" at the event no later than 2:15 p.m.

How to Enter

1. Sign up and pay the \$10 entry fee at the ARF Booth at the July 4 festival by 2:00.
2. Be "ready to go" by 2:15 p.m.

The competition will commence at 2:30 p.m.

Questions? Ask Janice at 951-659-6385 or janicemurasko@yahoo.com





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.

This month I caught up with one of the "Highway 74" dogs who came to ARF last month after spending nearly a week on the highway between Idyllwild and Hemet. Peeta, who now goes by the name Tuppy, is living the good life in Idyllwild. I spoke with his new mom, Laura Swanson.

Q. Please tell your story. How did you come to make this ARF adoption?

A. I lost a dog for about about 18 months ago and was waiting to fill the void until I knew the time was "right." I saw that ARF had the three highway dogs and decided to meet Maltese-mix "Katnis." I visited with Katnis one Sunday at ARF, but we just didn't click. I left my name, number, and a few notes about the type of dog I might like to one day adopt. Just two days later, Mary Lou called to suggest I meet Peeta. I met with Mary Lou and Peeta that Wednesday. I guess I had a feeling he might be "the one," because before going to ARF, I cleaned the house



and prepared for a new family member. I spent 90 minutes with Peeta then took him for a trial. Well, the trial soon became a permanent arrangement!

Q. Did you keep the name ARF had assigned to your pet, or did you change it (and is there any sentimental, specific reason for the new name?)?

A. I changed his name to Tuppy. I once saw a photo of my mother when she was maybe 8 or 9, and she was with a dog that looked so much like Peeta. He was her favorite dog, and his name was Tuppy...

Q. Do you have any cute/unique stories about your adoptee?

A. Tuppy is a kleptomaniac! He collects all sorts of things around the house (including my cell phone), piling them up in the center of my bed. He seldom chews on them; he just likes to collect! He has also appointed himself guardian of my senior dog. He guides his senior sibling up and down the stairs and en-

Continued on page 6

If your dog doesn't do what you ask, it doesn't understand what you want.

End the frustration! Train your dog!

Positive Reinforcement Training

Janice Murasko, Trainer

KPA CTP APDT

951-663-6642 mtpawly.com

Chris Singer

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Summer Safety Preparations continued

How can you help keep your pet safe?

1. Vaccinate your dog to buy time to get to the vet in case of a snake bite. Sadie's Clinic offers such protection. Call for you appointment today!
2. Walk your dog on 6-foot leash.
If you hear a rattle or see a snake on the ground ahead of you, if your dog is on a 6-foot leash, you can avoid it. **Vets say the vast majority of rattlesnake bites occur when a dog is off-leash or on a flexi-lead.**
3. Avoid rocky, dense brush, or grassy areas.
4. Snake-proof your yard.
Your yard may be fenced to keep Fido safely in, but it won't keep most snakes out unless you fortify it. Snakes can get under fencing that does not have a solid cement base (like a block wall). On wood fences or solid iron fences, use hardware cloth all along the base of your fence, including across any gated areas. You'll need to dig a trench to bury 22" of it into the ground, with 18" above ground attached to the base of your fence. Hardware cloth runs about \$100 per 100 feet — expensive, but if you live in a rattlesnake-dense area and want your dog to be safe in your yard, the cost may be worth it .

Baxter's Buddies continued

courages him to play. Tuppy is so loving; he puts his paws around me, his head on my shoulder, and joins me at bed time by body slamming into me!

Q. *Is this pet your first pet adoption (from anywhere)?*

A. No. I've always had adopted pets, but not through formal adoptions.

Q. *How has your ARF pet fit into your family's day-to-day lifestyle?*

A. Tuppy loves my grandchildren and is great at greeting customers who come into my shop. It is as if the universe somehow conspired to bring us together.

Q. *Do you have any words of encouragement or recommendation for someone considering pet adoption?*

A. Adopting a pet can have such a positive impact on a person's life. A pet can make you smile and lift your spirits. There is so much people can learn from animals, especially pets who become part of the family.



5. Know a dog's rattlesnake-bite symptoms.

If you don't recognize the symptoms of a rattlesnake bite in your dog, you might delay rushing them to the vet immediately – and that delay could be fatal. Immediate symptoms almost always include:

- puncture wounds (can be bleeding)
- severe pain
- swelling
- restlessness, panting, or drooling

If you & your dog encounter a rattlesnake...

Calmly & slowly back away from the snake until you are no longer within striking distance (about the snake's length) and until the snake stops rattling at you. Then carefully leave the area – if there is one snake, there are likely to be more in that same area.

WATER: Many dogs love water, and most dogs are able to swim, but not all dogs are strong swimmers. **In the ocean:** If you choose to allow your dog to swim in the ocean, be careful that he doesn't drink the salt water. Doing so can cause sever toxicity. They often accidentally ingest the salt water while playing fetch.

In the lake: Your dog should wear a life vest at all times while riding in a boat, and as with ocean swimming, dogs should not ingest large quantities of lake water. Blue-green algae can be deadly if ingested.

In the pool: The chlorine in pools is typically diluted to a safe level for dogs, however dogs should not swim in pools that have recently been "shocked" or super chlorinated. *It is possible for dogs to drown in pools! Do not let them swim unsupervised.*

Please take a few minutes to plan a safe summer for your four-legged family members. Those few minutes could spare your pet and your family members heartache and pain.



ARF Welcomes New Board Members

The current ARF Board of Directors is very pleased and happy to announce the appointment of its new president Chris Martin. Chris brings wonderful insight and leadership to help with ARF's mission to help homeless dogs and cats.

Also new to the Board is Bill Walker, who is now the Grants Chairperson. Bill brings with him much grant writing experience. His knowledge should be valuable in helping ARF acquire much-needed funding.

Puppy hugs and kitty kisses to our newest ARF board members!



First Spay/Neuter Clinic A Big Success

Luke's Legacy (lukeslegacyfoundation.org) recently funded the first of three spay and neuter clinics for the mountain communities of Idyllwild on June 24 and 25. In the two days, 44 dogs and cats were spayed/neutered at Living Free's facility.

The next scheduled clinic will be on August 26 and 27 when residents on the hill and in Anza may take advantage of this service for a small \$25 donation. Interested pet owners will need to make an appointment in advance by calling 951-659-4687.

ARF and Living Free thank Luke's Legacy for its wonderful generosity.

Trainer Talk

Dogs, Communication, and You

Yes, your dog is adorable. She is personable. She is your best friend. But face the facts. Your dog is *not* a person. Your dog is...a dog.

Dogs are not linguistic, but they are amazing masters of reading body language and emotions. And because they are so adept at reading your body language and emotions, you might misinterpret their reactions as something they are not. Does your dog listen to you and understand what you're saying? Yes, but probably not in the way you think she does.

Take for example the common misinterpretation of your dog's behavior when you come home to find the kitchen trash can tipped over and its contents strewn across the floor. "He *knows* he's done a bad thing. Guilt is written all over his face!!" Really? Yes, your dog is probably averting his eyes and cowering. Feeling guilty? No.

Your dog is a master at reading your emotions and body language, remember? Your initial reaction to the trash-covered kitchen floor

was most certainly negative. Did you gasp? Did your jaw drop? What was your stance? And did those words, "What the \$%&%\$%! BAD dog!" just roll out of your mouth before you could stop them?

Your dog's cowering, looking away, lying down was his way of behaving respectfully. He no doubt sensed your displeasure and began using "calming signals" in order to appease and avoid conflict. If his calming signals did not work, and your shock turned to rage, odds are the instinctive "fight or flight" mechanism kicked in. Being terrified, he ran. His behavior was not because of guilt; it was a reaction to your body language and emotions.

It is understandable that we might see our dogs as being people, but in order to manage expectations of our dogs' behaviors and train them responsibly, we need to know and understand their capabilities and points of view.



Janice Murasko
KPA-CTP APDT



Cheers to all who helped make ARF's Paws for Rhythm & Brews a HUGE success!

Thank you to **70 volunteers** who poured beer and wine, drove shuttles, sold tickets, and set-up and broke-down the event.

Thank you **Super 300 Swing Loaded Blues Band** for rockin' the crowd!

Thank you to our **thirteen craft breweries** for pouring their fabulous brews, and thank you **Baily Wines** for making those non-beer drinkers very happy. And the brewery reps were so happy to have a place to spend the night, thanks to **Ann & Barnaby Finch, Jim & Tori Thomas, Reg & Tria Cohen, Maureen Charles, Peaceful Mountain Inn, Grand Idyllwild Lodge, Mile High Country Inn, Silver Pines Lodge, and Thousand Trails.**

Many thanks to **Jyoti Kintz** at the Nature Center who was *so very* helpful.

Mountain Paws and **Idyll Awhile Wine Shoppe** were champion ticket sellers!

Props to **Subaru of Palm Springs** who loaned us vans to give attendees rides to and from town, and kudos to **101.3 The Mix** who promoted our event.

Our awesome event logo was the creation of **Cheryl Harrison** (thank you!)

The **Pine Cove Water District** came through for us w/ the stage & tables, and this entire event would never have come to be without the invaluable expertise and assistance of **Ted Cummings**.

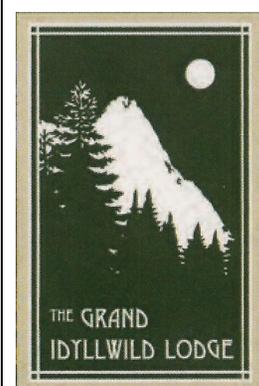


Mark your calendar for next year's
Paws for Rhythm and Brews...JUNE 4, 2016



**Mile High
Country Inn**
Idyllwild, California

54605 N. Circle Dr, Idyllwild
951-375-2655
milehighcountryinn.com

54820 Pine Crest,
Idyllwild
951-659-2385
grandidyllwildlodge.com



Adoptees of the Month



Sunny



This is Sunny, the Nature Center cat. She likes to venture out now and then to lounge under the trees, or do a little sun bathing in the wheelbarrow. Primarily, she prefers the indoors with a window seat. Sunny is a 6 year old female. Calico/tortie mix.

Sunny is not a great fan of the canine crowd, and she is somewhat of a diva, as she prefers to be the only feline in the home. Her demeanor is very calm. She loves children and proved to be very gentle with them as they visited her at the Nature Center. Please help Sunny find her forever home.



Paco came to ARF after wandering onto a pet-lover's front porch. No one has come looking for this adorable little boy, so ARF has taken care to get him all ready to be adopted into his forever family.

Paco, who is about 5-years old, is very friendly, loves other dogs, and is great with cats. This little 6-pound boy is full of life and *loves* to play. He will need to be with a family that has a secure yard, as he is an accomplished escape artist (maybe we should have named him Houdini?). This little guy will work his way into your heart within minutes of meeting him.

Paco



Firefighters Save Dog Trapped Between Boulders

When Search and Rescue Director Robert Hewitt responded to a call for help from a worried pet parent, he never expected the call would be a newsworthy one. Last month a visitor to the hill, camping at Thousand Trails in Pine Cove, called for help when her beautiful dog Aslan disappeared and wouldn't come to her call. Robert joined her in the search and was shocked, and saddened, to discover Aslan trapped between two boulders.

Robert climbed up to the dog, who had been missing for approximately two hours, and found that the dog was so tightly wedged between the boulders that he couldn't get even a finger be-

tween the dog and the rock. "I knew this job was much bigger than I could handle alone, so I called Riverside County/Cal Fire Station 23," which is located just a few blocks from Thousand Trails. Two firefighter crews showed up, ready to do whatever was necessary to save the dog.

Crews covered the dog with a tarp to protect it and began chiseling away at the granite. About 90 minutes later, the dog was free. A bit weak in the legs, Aslan was thirsty and tired, but very happy to be with her "mom."

After a serious discussion with rescuers about the importance of always walking her dog on a leash, Aslan and her family enjoyed the rest of the weekend. 



Sadie Says

Busy Clinics = Healthy Pets

Sadie's Clinic is running smoothly. We are averaging approximately 20 to 35 appointments per clinic. Now Dr. Nastro is also doing spay and neuters by appointment for a \$25.00 donation. He recently completed a two-day spay/neuter clinic, held at Living Free through a grant from Luke's Legacy (lukeslegacy.org). Appointments are made for the August 26, 27 clinic by calling Living Free at 951-659-4687.

Sadie's Clinic has been busy keeping all the community pets up to date on all vaccinations, performing wellness check-ups, heartworm testing, and so much more. It has been my pleasure to be director of Sadie's Clinic for almost two years. I have enjoyed assisting Dr. Nastro at each clinic, and he is great about answering any questions I may have. I have learned a lot.

The Sadie's team is really a smooth running operation at each clinic. All of us work together so well and have become great friends. We all have a common goal, and that is to provide the best care we can for your fur babies. Be sure to check dates and get your pets their yearly boosters so they are well protected.

All the best to Idyllwild, and all Pet Lovers, 
Dr. Michael Nastro, Claudine Ellis, Teri Hardy, Peg Gallo,
and Elaine Weiler

