



# Ruff Times



Volume V Issue 7

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

August 2016

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## Director's Message

### Discovering True Happiness

It is so easy to fall into a lifestyle where material items become the focus. As a young adult, I was so happy to have a vacation home, boat, jet skis, lots of shoes, a beautiful car, and the newest snow skis. I thought they made me happy, and on one level, they did. As I was enjoying the material fruits of my labor, I envisioned how much more I would enjoy these things once I was retired and had limitless time. I suspect I was not alone in feeling this way; my peers were pretty much in the same place.

Retirement finally became a reality, and within 30 days of my last day of teaching high school, my family (my husband and our dogs) moved full time to Idyllwild (finally!). And within two weeks of becoming an official full-timer on this mountain, I was an ARF board member. That was a little more than five years ago. Since then, ARF has become more and more the central focus of life for my husband and me.

Those material items that were so integral to my happiness have been replaced with something beautiful—trees, squirrels, fresh air, snow, seasons, silence, wind whistling through pine trees, sincerely compassionate people, loving cats and dogs, and a little animal rescue. And that little rescue, ARF, has taught me something.

My days with ARF have shown me what true happiness is. Today, I know that happiness is a dog's kiss of gratitude when placed in the safe and loving arms of a foster family, and the purr of a cat just rescued from a tiny crate carelessly left in the sun behind the ARF House. My happiness comes directly from the pet parent's tears of relief upon hearing that ARF has helped find the family's missing dog and the sincere expression of appreciation for the services we provide.

I come home from helping with Sadie's Clinic totally exhausted yet very happy because so many pet parents throughout the day have expressed their appreciation for our offering veterinary services each month. I am always pleased and happy when visiting with

Continued on page 9



**A non-profit organization**

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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.

*Bailey, the Irish Wolfhound mix came to ARF after being found wandering, but even with an extensive search, her family could not be found. Once Bailey became available for adoption, ARF's email and voice mailbox lit up like Las Vegas. Ann, who won over Bailey's heart, tells the story of how this loving, beautiful dog came into her family's life.*

**Q: How did you come to adopt Bailey?**

I lost my dog Roxy last August when she was 15 and had been semi-looking for another dog. Everyone told me that it would find me, and she did. I saw Bailey on ARF's Facebook page and went to meet her. My concern was she was big, but not really that big. I was a goner when I met her, but needed my son to evaluate as we call him the dog whisperer. Bailey met my 3-year old great granddaughter and was very gentle with her, plus she then met Hannah my

granddog and they got along great. I got the nod from the son, and I was sold on her.

**Q: How did you know about ARF?**

I always buy firewood from ARF as I know it is for a good cause and anybody that knows Idyllwild knows about ARF.

**Q: Do you have any cute stories about Bailey?**

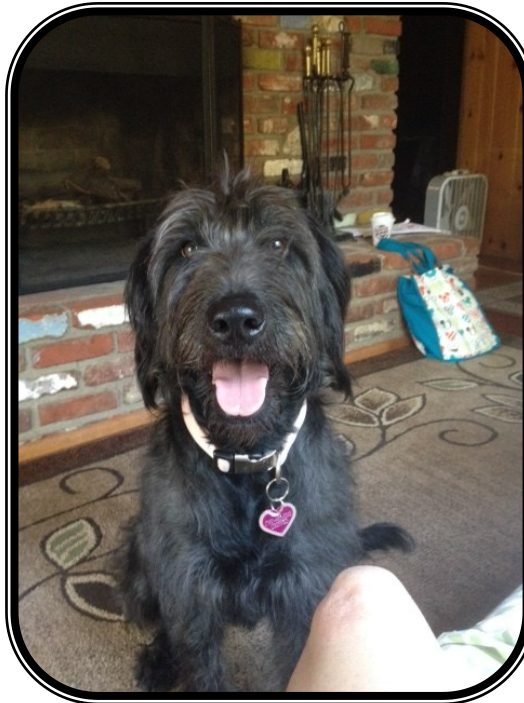
Bailey won my husband over when she and I got home in the valley and she walked into the house and put her head in his lap for some scratches. She will do this several times a day. She has separation issues when I leave her on her own, and she does surf the counters for anything edible, so we are learning to put everything out of her reach. She did get into a trash can and spread what little was there, and when I asked her if she did it, she raised her head straight up and looked way off. Guilty!


**Q: Is this your first pet adoption?**

I adopted my last dog Roxy from my grandson and all other dogs were rescued from the streets. This is the first from a rescue organization.

**Q: How has Bailey fit into your day-to-day lifestyle?**

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# Adoptees of the Month



Girlie Girl

Looking for a canine companion who knows how to relax, take easy walks, and give endless love? You need to meet Girlie Girl, a young 10-year old Shepherd mix. Her guardian is now too ill to care for her, so she is now in the loving arms of ARF.

Girlie Girl gets along with dogs *and* cats, is quiet, and very gentle.

Grace, who came to ARF along with her canine sister Girlie Girl is a stunning Russian Blue. She is 10-years old, very

affectionate, and good with dogs and other cats. Grace would make a perfect companion for anyone looking for lots of love.



Grace

## Strawberry Creek Bunkhouse

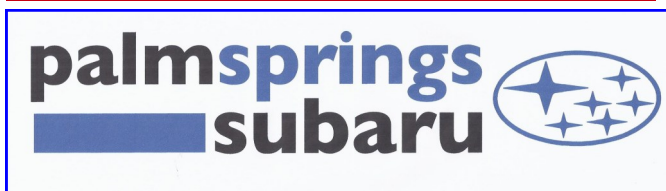
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## Trainer Talk

# Myth vs. Fact: Dogs and Their Behaviors

*I was recently reviewing the web site of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) and came across an article that says it all. It says everything that I preach, so with credit to APDT, I am reprinting it here.*

**MYTH: If a dog can't learn a behavior, he is either stubborn, dominant, stupid, or a combination of the three.**

**REALITY:** The truth is, dogs in many ways are just like people. Some dogs will pick things up very quickly and others will take more time and guidance. Often times when we as trainers see a dog having difficulty learning a task, it's because the dog is not being communicated to in a way that the dog can understand. Other times they fail to learn a task because they are not properly instructed as to when they've done the behavior correctly and therefore have no way of knowing what you are asking of them. Always reward your dog for doing something right and use patience when demonstrating a desired behavior. If your dog still seems to have trouble learning something new, think about how you've been teaching the dog from the "dog's point of view." Think about how certain behaviors may not be as clearly taught as you thought they were, or if there are elements in the environment that might be causing your dog to become confused or distracted. Is the behavior too complex and perhaps needs to be broken up into smaller steps? Another possibility to consider is whether the dog is capable of physically learning a certain behavior - for example, a dog that has hip problems might find certain positions like "sit" uncomfortable.

**MYTH: My dog knows he did something wrong because he looks guilty.**

**REALITY:** Guilt is a human emotion and whether animals feel emotions in the same way that humans do is subject to a great deal of debate among scientists! However, in terms of the "guilty look," a recent study at Barnard College in New York found that the "guilty" look people claim to see in their animals is entirely attributa-

ble to whether or not the person expected to see the look, regardless of whether or not their dog had actually done something to be "guilty" about. When a dog looks "guilty" it is because they are reacting to a change in our body language that tells them "something is wrong" and leads to body language on their part that "looks" worried and nervous to the human eye. In reality the dog has learned to exhibit these behaviors in order to appease humans who display angry or upset body language.

**MYTH: A puppy has to be at least six months old to be trained.**

**REALITY:** This myth originated from "old school" training where heavy collar corrections were used and therefore it was preferred that a dog be at least old enough to withstand wearing the collar and dealing with the pressure of collar corrections and punishment during training sessions. With today's modern methods of training based on positive reinforcement and cooperation with your dog, there is no reason you can't start working with your puppy as soon as you can! A puppy starts learning the moment they are able to observe and relate to their environment. Unlike an adult dog, a puppy may have a shorter attention span and this will require more patience when teaching behaviors, but there is no reason your puppy can't start

Continued on pg 5



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## Myth vs Fact...continued

learning right away, and the sooner you start, the quicker your puppy will learn. It's important to socialize your puppy as soon as possible as well to expose him to new people and things so he'll grow up to be a behaviorally healthy and confident adult dog.

**MYTH: That "positive reinforcement" training only works with small/happy/regular dogs, not tough/large/obstinate/stubborn dogs.**

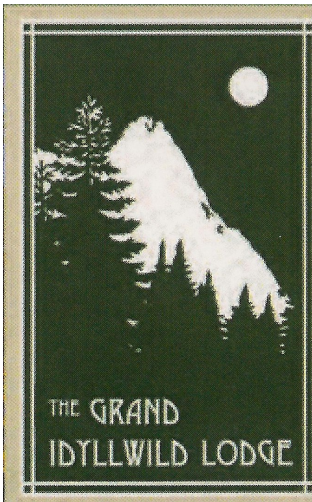
**REALITY:** Using positive reinforcement primarily to train animals is the norm among exotic animal and marine mammal trainers. If you can train a large predator such as a killer whale or a tiger through concentrating on rewarding behaviors, there is no reason you can't do the same with your dog regardless of his breed. Moreover, as our knowledge of behavior is strengthened through research, the consensus is that using aversive training methods on fearful or aggressive dogs is more likely to lead to worse behaviors, whereas focusing on rewarding the animal and alleviating their fears and anxieties leads to more well-adjusted dogs and stronger human-animal relationships.

**MYTH: My dog does pulls on leash because he's dominant, or, my dog jumps on me because he's dominant, or my dog lays on the couch because he's dominant, or my dog**

**won't let me clip his nail because he's dominant, etc.**

**REALITY:** The concept of "dominance" has been used to explain just about every inappropriate behavior in dogs that owners can possibly complain about. The problem is, the term dominance as is used by most dog owners today, and unfortunately some trainers still, is completely incorrect. 🐾

-Janice Murasko  
KPA-CTP  
APDT



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Be a good neighbor and a responsible pet parent. Pick up the poop! Just because a bear poops in the woods and doesn't clean up, doesn't mean that you & your dog may do the same!

### We hope you understand...

Because ARF is an all-volunteer organization, we cannot staff the ARF phone except on weekends when the ARF House is open. And when a volunteer (or two) is on vacation, we are *really* stretched thin.

When you call us during the week, please leave a message. A volunteer checks the messages often throughout the day, every single day of the week. We will return your call as soon as possible.



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## Baxter's Buddies continued—Bailey

Being that the two of us are retired, we are there with her, and she gives me the push to get out and walk. She is my buddy when we come to the mountains. So far things are going good. I know there will be issues, but we will work through them. I am going to sign up for classes, even though I think she has had some training, but it is I who needs the training now.

**Q: Did you keep the name ARF gave this dog?**

ARF gave Bailey her name and I think it suits her to a tee.

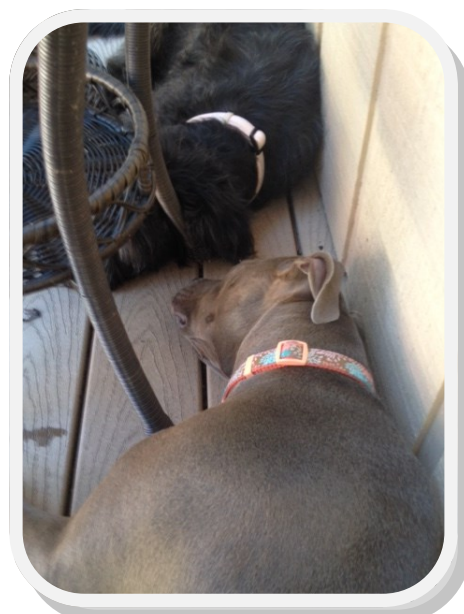
**Q: What words of advice do you have for someone considering a pet adoption?**

I always recommend adoption as opposed to buying from a breeder there are to many unwanted animals being dumped. They are the best because they love you more for giving them a home and loving them.

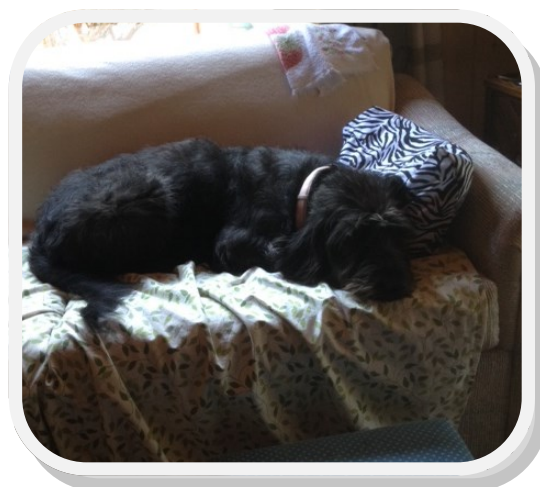
As a side note when I first met Bailey, I thought she would be the perfect dog for my sister in MO, but then she tugged at my heart and I decided to keep her for myself. I told my sister she would just have to visit more often.

Thank you ARF for choosing our home to be Bailey's forever home and family.

-Ann, Jack, and Bailey Benson



Bailey and her new best buddy.



Bailey says the sofa is now hers.



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## Sadie Says

# Cat Behavior to be Addressed



While it is *not* true that cats cannot be trained, it *is* true that training them is a bit more challenging. Cats are very intelligent, so modifying undesirable behaviors is very possible. To assist our local cat owners with helping their felines to be the best they can be, ARF introduces **Cats 101**, a series of cat behavior seminars.

The first in the series will take place on Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m.-noon and will focus on cat spraying and urinating outside the box. The series will take place at the ARF House and will be taught by Mirian Hasani, a certified feline trainer and behavioral specialist. A \$20 admission per person (or couple) will be donated to ARF.

Mirian shares her passion for cats and how she came to be such a specialist:

*Born and raised in Italy, I grew up wanting a cat. My mother would not allow that; being from a small town she believed cats are evil, and especially black cats.*

*Many years ago, my first cat, Snickle found his way into my heart. He was the first of several rescued cats over the past years, mostly unadoptable ones.*

*Few years ago, my best friend introduced me to the Cat House on the Kings, no kill, no cage Feline Sanctuary. I then decided to help as much as I could.*

*As I started driving from Los Angeles (200 miles) to the Cat House, they would ask me if I could pick up either one or several cats that were being surrendered. Coming back home, I would bring down between 16 to 20 kittens, to be adopted locally as part of a Program Exchange with rescues. Soon my van became known as the Kitten Mobile and I started doing these trips regularly, about twice or three times a month depending on the need.*

*Knowing the reason why some people surrender their cats, made my heart heavy and especially when I realized that nothing was wrong with the cat itself, it was the surroundings and the situations. Some reasons are legitimate, such as the owner not being able to take care of the cat anymore; but other reasons such as improper elimination, biting, scratching, not getting along with other cats, hyperactivity, shyness or hissing can definitely be improved or eliminated. I strongly felt the need to do more, to be more*

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## In First ~~Person~~ Dog

My name is Traveler, and I'm here with a very important message for all pet guardians. First, my story: I was left to fend for myself down in the desert. I wandered for days, looking for my people. When I realized I was on my own, I began to search for food, *anything* to fill my tummy. I even ate sand and dirt. But the worst part of my terrible experience were my deeply burned paws. My time spent on the hot pavement and concrete destroyed my paws.

Okay, so I was in a terrible predicament, and I didn't know how to protect my little feet, BUT YOU PET PARENTS DO! So here is my message:

### PLEASE DO NOT TAKE YOUR PETS FOR WALKS WHEN PAVED SURFACES ARE HOT!

- ♦ Check the pavement for heat before taking your dog on a walk. **Place your hand or a bare foot on the surface for 10 seconds. If it is too hot for you to keep your hand or foot on it, then it is too hot for your pet.**
- ♦ Stay on grassy surfaces and avoid bare ground when outside in the summer heat.
- ♦ Avoid the hottest parts of the day. Walk early in the morning or late in the evening after the pavement has cooled down.
- ♦ Invest in a pair of booties to help keep the heat from burning your dog's paws.

My feet are healing, but I'm in lots of pain. For a few days, I had to be carried everywhere. **Please don't let this happen to your beloved four-legged.**

*Love, Traveler*

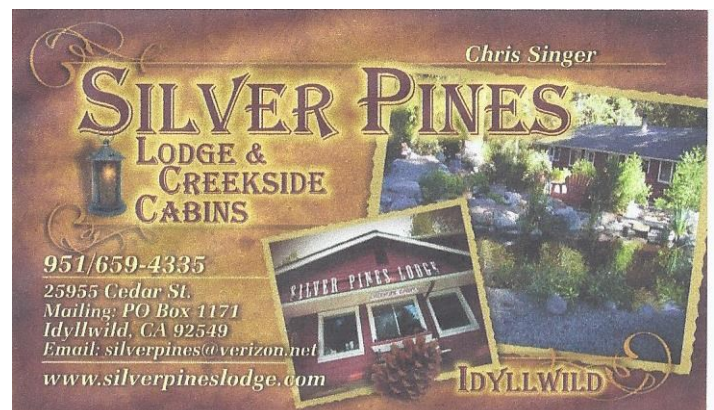


## Sadie Says continued

*pro-active in helping cats keep their homes and families or find their furrever homes. I then enrolled and got my Certification as Feline Trainer and Behavioral Specialist and now focus my efforts to help those in need. With a little guidance and a lot of patience, any situation can improve!*

You may learn more about Mirian at <http://www.mhfelinebehaviorist.com/>

Interested cat guardians are encouraged to reserve a seat by emailing ARF at [info@idyllwildarf.org](mailto:info@idyllwildarf.org) or leaving a message at 951-659-1122. The next **Cats 101** seminar (after the holidays) will cover cat-cat aggression.





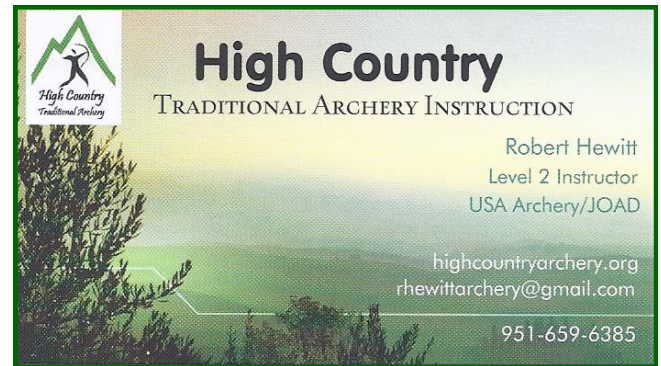
## True Happiness...cont.

locals who share with me photos and stories of their ARF dogs and cats, telling me just how much these four-leggeds mean to them.

I no longer have a boat, jet skis, snow skis, nice shoes, clean cars, or expensive clothing. I don't need any of it, and I certainly don't need these things to be happy. I am one very, content and happy woman. I work each day with amazing, caring, compassionate, hard working ARF colleagues and friends, grateful ARF dogs, and appreciative ARF cats, and I am surrounded by some pretty wonderful members of this beautiful mountain community.

Living on this mountain and devoting my time and energy to ARF have taught me that happiness is right here in my back yard, and I enthusiastically invite any and all to join me. 🐾

-Janice Murasko

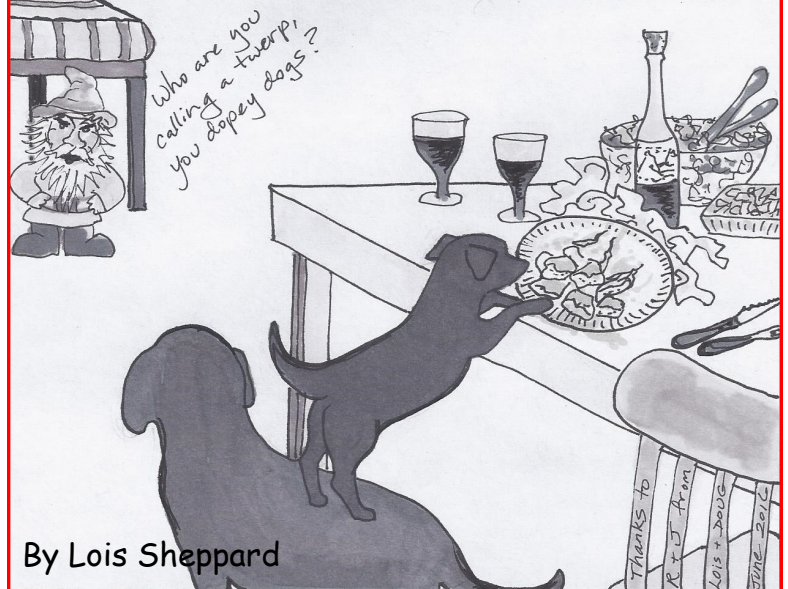


## ARFTOONS

Lucy: Baxter's howling really did the trick - what a pal!

Bonnie: Yeah, he's a good guy... don't forget to hide his cut under the couch. Maybe we'd better hide, too - they're gonna flip out when they see dinner's disappeared!

Lucy: Hey, blame it on the gnomes - all they do is stand around looking smug, those twerps...



By Lois Sheppard





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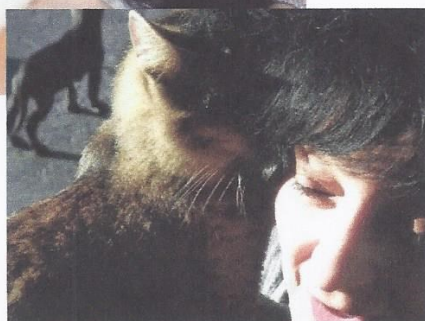
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# Farewell ARF Angel

Maria Lehman, long time ARF volunteer and board member, has moved to Arizona to be near her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. Maria most recently served as president of the ARF board of directors, and previously served as director of operations.

Maria's compassion and love for animals moved her to volunteer countless hours to the dogs and cats of our mountain communities. She helped find forever families for dozens of cats and dogs, worked tirelessly on fundraisers, cleaned *thousands* of litter boxes, and spent hours on the phone, answering questions and offering assistance on behalf of ARF.



Maria is a loving and loyal friend of ARF dogs and cats, and most importantly she is a dear friend of ARF volunteers, and her presence will be deeply missed.

*Maria, we hope you and Gigi enjoy every moment with your precious granddaughter, and we especially hope you'll be back very soon. We'll miss you so much.*



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**An egg can fry in 5 minutes at 131° F.**

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Data Source: James J. Berens, MD contact burns from streets and highways, Journal of the American Medical Association; 214(11):2025-2027

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