



Ruff Times



Volume V Issue 3

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

February 2016

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Director's Message

The Gift of Love Worth Millions

Valentine's Day reminds all of us of the love in our lives, both human and four-legged. We at ARF feel as though we celebrate Valentine's Day every day when we walk into the cattery at the ARF House, when we take a homeless dog into our fold, and when we assist Dr. Nastro at Sadie's Clinic. The dogs and cats we encounter on a daily basis openly share their love and appreciation for what we do. What could be better than that?

The best part about sharing Valentine's Day with our precious four-legged family members is that they don't need, nor do they expect flowers, candy, or gifts. The best way for we humans to express our love for our dogs and cats is by offering a *safe and secure* life. A safe life for a dog is one with healthy meals, fresh water at all times, regular veterinary visits, a secure yard, family walks or hikes *on a leash*, play time, and some positive training.

Cats are just as easy to please on Valentine's Day - no fancy gifts necessary! All they ask for are healthy meals, fresh water, a clean litter box, regular veterinary check-ups, play time, lap time, and a predator-free environment.

If you look at the above dog and cat wish lists, you might think they appear lengthy. But if you really think about it, you'll realize that all our four-leggeds are asking from us is what we humans expect for ourselves in our daily lives - food, housing, attention, and love. It's just that most humans don't consider these basic expectations to be *gifts*.

So on this Valentine's Day, I encourage you to give your little Fifi or Fido a special gift of your time. Take a walk, throw the ball, brush that beautiful coat, or settle in for a serious lap time. It won't cost a penny, but it will be worth millions.



-Janice Murasko



A non-profit organization

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ARF House: 26890 Hwy 243, Idyllwild

arfidyllwild.weebly.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.

In late December, ARF received a call from a good Samaritan in Mountain Center who had picked up a beautiful Shih Tzu that was wandering the streets. After posting signs and knocking on doors for a week, she realized this little boy had no home. ARF placed him with a loving foster, who began to call him Edgar. It was just a very short period of time before Erik and Melissa found him and became his forever parents.

How did you come to make this adoption?

We had to put down our previous dog a couple weeks before taking a trip to Idyllwild. We were not ready to adopt a new dog. Not yet. Just too soon. I repeat, we were not ready. But, you know, a little shopping around never hurt, right? What's the risk?

How did you know about ARF?

The woman who rents us her cabin when we come up suggested ARF. Just a pleasant stroll down the highway.

Do you have any cute stories to tell?

We suspect Wallace is a mountain dog. He's probably never seen the city. We stopped at a Trader Joe's when we got back into L.A. With every car horn, every crash of a cart, every shouting child, Wallace would turn and look and cock his ears with great concern. (He also decided to make clear his initial displeasure of city life by pooping on the floor of the pet store.) Now, happily, he seems to enjoy the city very much. He especially likes the culture.

And the club scene.

How has your ARF pet fit into your family?

Wallace likes to follow us around from room to room. When one of us leaves, he cries for a little while. We haven't left him entirely alone yet. We don't think he'll like this eventuality. He loves to go on walks with Mom, and wake up Dad in the morning with some admittedly melodious barking.

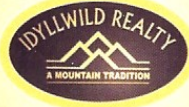
I see you changed his name.

Any particular reason?

We changed his name to Wallace, although he still has his "Lucy" collar on, as we wait for a new collar. Needless to say, being a boy and all, he's a little embarrassed about the collar. Wallace is named after one of our favorite authors, the late David Foster Wallace. We also like Wallace Stegner,

Continued on page 5





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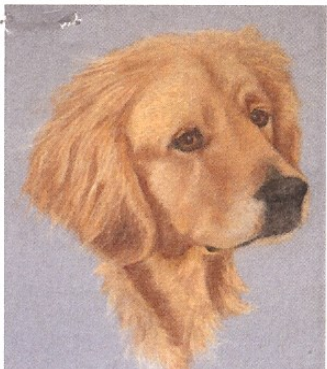
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Adoptees of the Month



A Cast of Characters

The ARF cattery boasts a true cast of characters worthy of a soap opera. So here we introduce the players in a new production, *The Days of Our Nine Lives*:

Chewy: The young, male kitten who is the clown in the neighborhood. He loves making any and everyone laugh with his antics.

Rey: The young ingénue, sister of Chewy, charms visitors with her precious, coy ways.

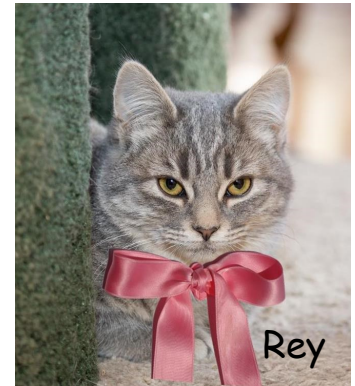
Furball Bill: The leading man who enjoys playing with the kittens. He takes his time warming up to human visitors, rewarding those who are patient.

Bobbie: The femme fatale, of sorts. She makes it clear that she loves humans and would prefer to NOT share them with any other cats.

We invite you to stop by the ARF cattery on the weekends to meet our stars .



Chewy



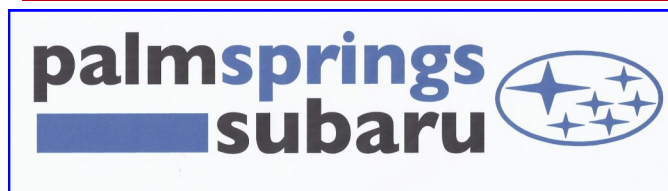
Rey



Bill



Bobbie



Are You *Really* Ready for a Dog?

By Shayna Meliker

Pretty much anyone with a dog will gush to you about how awesome he is. I mean, what's better than having a furry shadow who thinks you're the greatest thing in the world? So you think, Hey, maybe I should have a dog. Before you run out and get one, make sure you're prepared for the responsibility. Here are seven signs you shouldn't get a dog:

1. You're not home enough to care for one.

Jet-setters, take heed. If you're hopping on a plane every other week for a business trip or to soak up some sun down South, this might not be the right time to bring home a dog.

Same goes for the long hours you're clocking at the office to please the boss-man, jumping out of the bed before the sun comes up and returning home long after it's set. If you happen to be swamped for a couple months and need to hire a dog walker or drop your pup off at doggy day care during work hours, those options are definitely out there — but keep in mind that the majority of your dog's care and socialization still falls to you, and that's a huge time commitment.

2. You have severe pet allergies, or someone else in your house does. Moderate allergies to pets can sometimes be controlled by working with an allergist and creating pet-free zones (like the bedroom), but if someone in your family has severe, even life-threatening reactions to pet dander, bringing home a dog is not the way to go. Safety first, guys. If you still need your canine fix, volunteer to dog sit for a friend or spend some time helping at the local animal shelter.

3. You really just want a puppy. Obviously, puppies are cute. And your Instagram feed will suddenly become much more interesting than cubicle selfies and pictures of your Sunday brunch cocktails. But soon that tiny, black-and-brown fluffball will become a 115-pound Bernese Mountain Dog who takes up the entire sofa and could eat you out of house and home. Scientific research has proven that puppies do turn into

dogs, so make sure what you really want is a dog.

4. You're not financially ready. Plenty of dog breeds love having jobs, but not the kind that brings home the bacon. That is your job, human. Seriously, though, take a look at your finances and really consider whether you have enough disposable income to pay for a dog's needs. You'll need to cover the costs of his initial veterinary care and vaccinations, spaying or neutering, food, toys, shampoo, bowls, collars, leashes and cleaning supplies, among other things. And as careful and caring as you are, emergencies happen — and while pet insurance can help, unexpected vet appointments and surgeries aren't easy on the wallet.

Source: *Vetstreet.com*



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Baxter's Buddies continued

but not as much. He is not named after William Wallace, as he skews more English than Scottish.

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

Take the chance. We learn to love our pets, as parents learn to love their children, so don't worry if he's not perfect. In time, he'll become perfect.

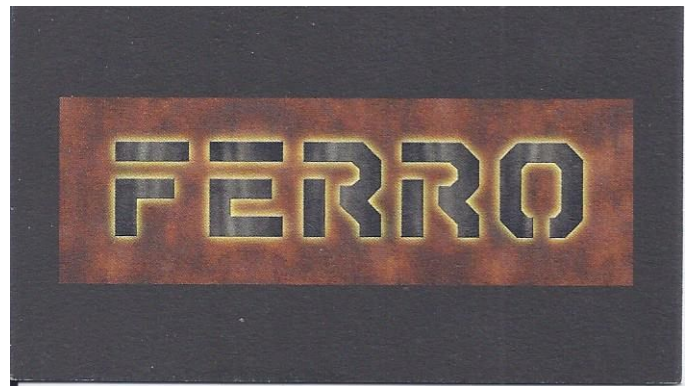


Rent this beautiful cabin! VRBO.com #188926

ARF Awarded Valuable Grant Monies

Bill Walker, ARF's grant writer, is pleased to announce ARF has received two grants to assist with funds for emergency evacuations and new equipment for its search and rescue team. The Carol and Kent H. Landsberg Foundation awarded \$2042.00 to purchase radios and catch poles for ARF's search/rescue team. These items have been purchased and will be put to use to aid community members in searches for lost dogs.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) issued a grant for \$2000.00 to assist ARF in purchasing supplies to assist movement of and care for ARF dogs and cats in case of an evacuation. Emergency supplies will be at the ready, thanks to the ASPCA.



Chris Singer

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Idyllwild

Winter Safety Tips for Your Pup

Better Homes and Gardens recently published a great article for dog owners who live in regions that get very cold in the winter. With credit to BHG, here is important reading for all pet owners who live in and around Idyllwild.

Walking dogs is a great way to get exercise while appreciating the frozen terrain. However, it's important for dog owners to pay attention to common wintertime hazards.

Extreme cold is a noticeable risk to keep in mind when walking dogs, but there are less obvious dangers to keep in mind as well. Cold-weather chemicals can find their way onto dog's paws, and pet owners must watch for signs of dehydration and frostbite.

Here are five easy ways to keep your pet happy, healthy, and safe on every dog walk this winter.

1. Look for Signs of Exposure

Smaller breeds with less fur are more susceptible to cold weather, but the AAHA recommends that all pet owners look for the following signs of exposure while walking dogs in cold temperatures:

- Whining
- Shivering
- Appearing anxious
- Slowing down
- Stopping movement

Looking for places to burrow

If you notice any of these signs, return indoors immediately. As a general rule, it's good practice to remember that if you're cold, your dog is too!

2. Always Use a Leash

According to the APDT, more dogs are lost in the winter than in any other season. Use a leash when walking a dog in the winter as unleashed dogs may run onto semi-frozen lakes or ponds.

3. Keep Your Dog Hydrated

Dogs are just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as they are in the summer, according to

the AKC. Be sure to provide plenty of fresh water before and after walking a dog walk during the winter season. Keep in mind that snow is not a suitable alternative to fresh water.

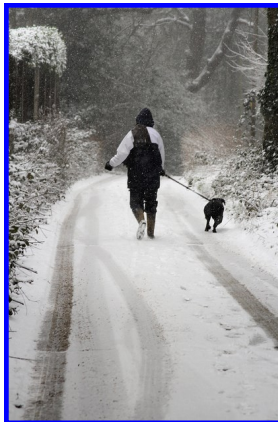
4. Be Aware of Chemicals

Sidewalks and driveways are frequently topped with chemicals like antifreeze and ice melters throughout the winter. These chemicals can get onto dogs' feet and cause abrasions. Dogs may also lick chemicals off their feet, resulting in stomach problems.

Consider dressing your dog in booties when going on a walk. If your dog will not wear booties, use a warm cloth to wipe their paws immediately after you return from a walk. ASPCA also suggests Mush-er's Secret as an alternative to booties. The waxy substance can be applied to your dog's paws and will protect toes and paw pads outdoors.

5. Check for Frostbite

A dog's footpads, nose, ear tips, and tail are at the highest risk for frostbite during the winter, according to PetMD. After each walk, check these points on your dog for frostbite. Frostbitten skin will stay pale and cold -- even after being inside. The skin may also swell and turn red. Always consult a veterinarian if you believe your dog has frostbite.





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Sadie Says

Heartworm Warning



Sadie's Clinic began the new year earlier this month with a very successful clinic day. Dr. Nastro was kept busy with 37 clients. This should serve as a good reminder to anyone who brings his pet to Sadie's to make an appointment well in advance. And when an appointment is made, please take care to mark in on the calendar!

Recently, two canine mountain residents have been diagnosed with heartworm. We have heard pet owners say they don't believe dogs need to worry about heartworm in the winter since it is spread by mosquitos. But veterinary parasitologists have found that it is possible for mosquitoes to carry heartworms even in milder winter months. Because of this and the fact that many people travel with pets back and forth to

warmer areas of the country, most veterinarians and the American Veterinary Heartworm Society now recommend year-round heartworm prevention for dogs in most areas of the country. An added benefit of most monthly heartworm preventatives including Heartgard and Iverhart Max is that most of these preventatives also treat and control many intestinal parasites, which can also be a problem any time of year.

We encourage you to seriously weigh the risks of the deadly heartworm disease versus the small cost of preventive medication. If your dog is tested for heartworm at Sadie's, you may purchase this preventive medication from us at prices lower than those through online sites such as Petmeds.

We look forward to seeing you at our next clinic, Wednesday March 2. Make your appointment now! 951-659-1122

-Teri Hardy
Sadie's Clinic Director

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Believe it or not...

ARF is already hard at work in the planning stages of the 2nd Annual
Paws for Rhythm & Brews Beer Festival

Mark your calendar: June 4, 2016

*We treat our festival volunteers very well!
Each volunteer works a shift and then is invited to participate in festival activities, including beer tasting!*

Volunteer spots are limited, however. If you'd like to be a volunteer, please email Janice Murasko at
janicemurasko@yahoo.com

Trainer Talk

Danger at the Dog Park? Learn to Keep Them Safe!

In the last few months, I've been asked by many dog parents about the safety of dog parks. Quite a few locals have told me about harrowing experiences at the dog park, so with this in mind, I've reprinted an article I wrote a couple of years ago. If you take your pup to the dog park, this is a MUST READ.

Ahhh...the dog park. Puppies prancing, dogs playing tag, rainbows and butterflies maybe. Many have romanticized notions of the dog park and their four-legged spending hours playing with others. But unless all dog owners/handlers know how to read dog body language, a peaceful day in the park can easily turn into a tragic visit.

More than one dog owner has been heard saying, "Oh, it's okay. Look, his tail is wagging." A wagging tail doesn't necessarily mean all is well. A tail, straight up and moving back and forth could very well be a ticking time bomb. Look for a tail that is in a neutral position (unless the breed's tail is always up) that is gently wagging in a relaxed manner. But when evaluating a dog's tail wag, you must also consider other body language.

If the dog's tail is what you think might be a "ticking time bomb," be sure to take a look at the dog's eyes, mouth, and stance. Are the dog's eyes hard or soft? Is the mouth open with a gentle, relaxed pant or is it being held closed? Does the face, in general, look relaxed or tense? Is he standing in a relaxed fashion, or is he tense and leaning forward?

In the picture to the right, notice the closed mouth, "tense" eyes, and upright tail wag. His posture is anything but relaxed.

This is a dog to keep an eye on when at the dog park!



Conversely, another dog to be aware of is the fearful dog. Fear makes an animal extremely unpredictable. When a dog's ears are flattened, his head lowered, tail tucked, front paw lifted, lips drawn way back, and his body line is rounded, he is telling you he feels trapped. Should your dog fail to read the

fearful dog's body language, or if you attempt to comfort him by

reaching in to him, you might see the dog "fold" or he just might explode into action because his message was ignored.

Assuming your dog is comfortable with other dogs and in the dog park setting, help her choose a playmate carefully. Look for the dog with relaxed body posture, eyes, tail wag, and mouth.

Of course, owners need to observe their own dogs for signs of stress, anxiety, and fear. Although the owner might enjoy the interaction at the dog park, there is no guarantee the dog will. Owners need to pay attention to what their dogs are telling them and do what is best for their canine family members.

The bottom line? Approach the dog park cautiously, armed with knowledge to protect your precious pooch.



Easy-Peasy Lemon-Squeezy Ways to Help ARF

What an easy way to help ARF *and* the environment! Please bring your old ink cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras, and other small electronics to ARF. We recycle them for cash, and as you can probably imagine, every penny counts!

Drop off your recyclables at the ARF House on the weekends when we're there OR simply leave them in a bag on our front porch. Someone is there at least twice a day and will take them in.

Looking for information on the internet? Instead of going to Google, go to Goodsearch.com! It is a search engine just like the others, but when you've registered and chosen Animal Rescue

Friends of Idyllwild as your charity, ARF receives \$ every single time you initiate a search! And if you shop online, linking to the site of your choice through Goodshop.com, ARF gets a percentage of the money you spend.

Do you have a checking account with our local BBVA? Have you signed up for their give-back program which sends much needed \$\$ to the non-profit of your choice? If not, stop by and choose ARF! Every time you use your debit card as "credit", ARF gets a percentage of money spent.

ARF's dogs and cats thank you for taking these simple steps to help.



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By Lois Sheppard

From the Inbox

ARF Adoptees Keep in Touch, Living the Good Life



A quick shot of Baxter last month. He was shooting an ad for Simple Green, cast as the naughty dog who tracked mud into the house. He later was fully covered in stage mud, then rolled in the mud on the carpeting. Needless to say, when we got home he got a bath and several shampoos!
Janice Murasko



The gals at the office said to email you with a picture and description.

I went looking for a fat cat after my cat passed away, I saw the ad for Bubbles and took her home. She is an awesome cat, couldn't be happier! Although she is a pillow hog and sits on my computer keyboarddddbnnnmjklilll.

(That's supposed to be a joke with all the letters after keyboard)

Lance Wahl



Just wanted to send you a little update on Mr. Frankenstein here. He's definitely made himself at home as you can see in this picture! Hahaha! He's so funny, he wrapped himself up like a little burrito last night. We were cracking up! He loves to play with the other dogs and I'm pretty sure he has no idea how tiny he is! He thinks he's a big bad dog! LOL! He's just the happiest little guy ever and you can just see it in his eyes how much he loves us and how much he loves living in his forever home. He and Molly cuddle together all the time and are kind of like mommy and baby, it's adorable. Thank you again for taking such good care of our sweet babies until we found them! We love them so much!

Deanna Faulkner

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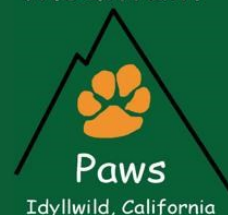
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