

Ruff Times

Volume VI Issue 2

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

September 2017

In this issue:

Pg 2: Baxter's Buddies

Pg 3: Adoptees of the Month

Pg 4: Sadie Says

Pg 5: Outliving Your Pet; When a Dog is Found

Pg 7: ARFtoons

Pg. 9: Evacuating Your Pet

Pg. 10: Dogs and Dom-inance



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Director's Message

The Joys of the Seasons

My favorite season has arrived-fall! I sometimes wonder which season my dogs think is the best; chasing the disappearing snowball is a blast, walking a little longer in the cool fall weather is awesome, enjoying the special smells of spring is delightful, and diving into a cool puddle in the summer is unmatched. But regardless of the joy of the season, I know there are seasonal hazards from which I must protect my pups. We have survived summer. My pups stayed home in the heat of the day where they were comfortable inside. No taking walks on hot pavement and keeping current on heartworm prevention meds were at the top of my list.

At ARF I often am asked by pet parents if continuing heartworm prevention is necessary during the fall and winter. I tell them that my dogs are on prevention year-round as I understand that only one little mosquito bite can be deadly. While it is true mosquitos are not as much of a concern in the winter, there is no guarantee that they are gone for good. I choose to err on the side of caution. Allowing my dog to contract heartworm is sentencing him to a miserable treatment, and if the heartworm is not caught soon enough, he could be sentenced to death. I will spring for the \$5.50 a month for the pill that can prevent it!

Most of us are very aware of the dangers of a dog left in a car on a hot or warm day, but so many fail to realize the dangers to a dog left in a car on a very cold mountain day. During cold weather, a comfortably warm car will cool down quickly once the engine is turned off. The car will then act as a refrigerator, locking the cold inside, which could cause a dog to freeze to death if left alone for too long.

And speaking of cold, a dog can suffer from frostbite. Though frostbite can occur in any part of the body that is exposed, frostbite in a dog's paw is usually more prevalent. Small dogs with short hairs are usually more susceptible to frostbites. The more the dog's body is exposed to the cold, the more are the chances of getting frostbites.

So enjoy the fun of the season, but be aware of seasonal hazards. Your four-legeds will thank you. 🐾

Janice Murasko
Director of Operations



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.

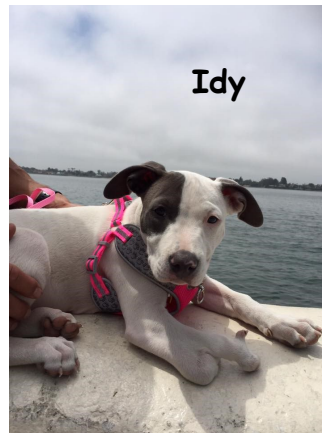
Back in early April, a hiker found a beautiful little Pitbull on Black Mountain Trail. She attached herself to this man and his two dogs, hiking with them for two days. At the end of his hiking trip, he brought her to ARF. He had totally fallen in love with this sweet girl, but he had no room in his car to take her home to Las Vegas.

ARF placed her with a wonderful foster family who soon realized she was pregnant. Uh oh! Right about that time, a loving Idyllwild resident decided she couldn't live without this lovely Pit Bull. Jill Peebles agreed to not only adopt Liv, but to also see her through the pregnancy, delivery, and first eight weeks of raising her babies. Liv gave birth to five healthy, happy puppies. One of the pups was born with a very defective leg, which was eventually amputated to give her a better life.

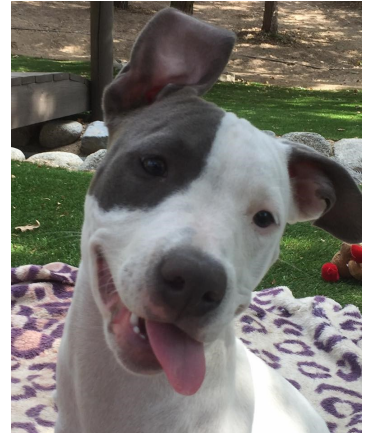
I have been keeping track of these stunning puppies, all who have inherited their mother's beautiful, loving personality. Here are their stories...

Idy: Idy, who is living on the mountain, was adopted by Joe and Nicole who have two other tripod pups. It was evident that her defective leg needed to be amputated in order to give her full mobility. Idy is a playful, loving girl who adores her siblings.

And by the way, she is the spitting image of her mama, except her gray patch is on the opposite eye.



Idy




Jack: Jack lives in Idyllwild with his guardian Carlos who says he is a loving, playful boy. He is one of two of the litter who is a "blue nose", meaning he is a beautiful gray with white markings.

Metta: Metta was given the nickname "Kansas" by ARF volunteers because in early June she was flown to Kansas to be with her forever mom Ra-



Jack

Continued on page 8





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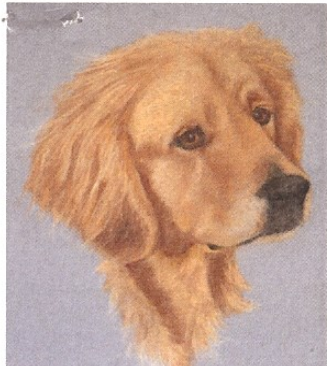
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Adoptees of the Month



Bodie

Bodie is a 14-month old Dandi Dinmont Terrier who was brought to ARF when his family said they couldn't take him with them when moving out of state. An affectionate, playful boy, Bodie is in training to address some resource guarding of toys and people.

Bodie's foster tells stories of his playfulness and desire to cuddle and be in a human's lap. He has made great strides in learning to share toys and people, but to be on the safe side, ARF believes he should be in a home with no children. Bodie is wonderful with cats and other dogs.

This boy will be the perfect family member for a couple or single person who has experience with dogs. His antics and ability to offer so much love and affection will fill a forever home with joy. Won't you make an appointment to meet Bodie? After his first year of life in rather sad environment, he deserves a life of security and love.

Mr. Gray is a discerning guy who will carefully select his forever family. He knows he is extremely handsome, with his powdery gray coat and white booties. And he also knows he would be a stunning addition to a loving forever family.

But Mr. Gray won't settle for just anyone. He needs to know that his forever human *wants* him. How will he know this? He will know he is truly wanted when the human makes several visits to ARF to give him the chance to be comfortable in the human's arms. Once he can trust, Mr. Gray will greet his human at the door, ready to give lots of love and affection.



Mr. Gray

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Sadie Says

Pudgy Pooch? Fat Cat? Oh no!



While the average pet guardian doesn't have the knowledge of a veterinarian, the average pet guardian *does* have what it takes to prevent a common cause of his pets' poor health: **obesity**.

At Sadie's Clinic, our veterinarian sees multiple cases of overweight dogs and cats at every single clinic. Why is this a concern? Overweight and obese pets suffer from weight-related diseases including *osteoarthritis, diabetes, hypertension, respiratory problems, kidney disease, and a reduction in both quantity and quality of life*.

Sadly, many pet guardians are in denial when

it comes to their pets' weight, but once they take a careful look at how and when their dog or cat eats, it becomes fairly evident that treats, free feeding, or over feeding are the main issues.

What should a pet guardian do once she has accepted her role in the pet's weight problem?

☺ Feed a balanced, species-appropriate diet to your pet. Regardless of her weight, your dog or cat still needs the right nutrition for her species, which means food that is high in animal protein and moisture, with low or no grain content.

☺ Practice portion control -- usually a morning and evening meal, carefully measured. A high protein, low carb diet with the right amount of calories for weight loss, controlled through the portions you feed, is what will take the weight off your dog or cat. And don't forget to factor in any calories from treats.

☺ Regularly exercise your pet. An overweight body gets back in shape by taking in fewer calories and expending more energy. Daily exercise, including at least 20 minutes of consistent aerobic activity, will help your pet burn fat and increase muscle tone.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Sadie's Clinic, October 4 and our nail trim clinic, October 31.

Teri Hardy
Director of Sadie's and Animal Welfare

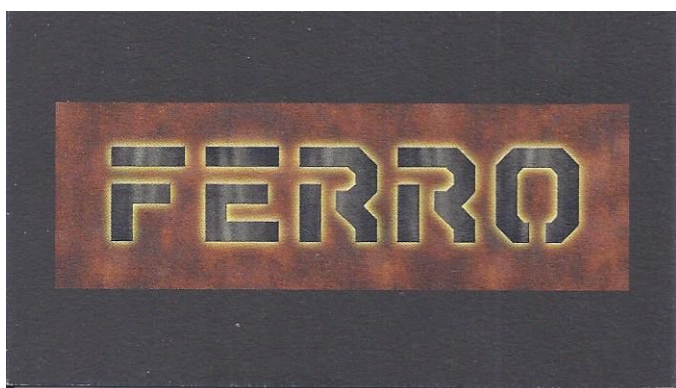


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What Happens When Your Pet Outlives You?

It is not uncommon for ARF to get calls from family members, neighbors, and even the county sheriff, asking if we can take in pets because the pets' guardian has passed away. Of course, if we have available foster families or room in our cattery, we do whatever we can to help. But often we do not have the resources necessary to accept the dog or cat.

If ARF cannot take the pets, they often find themselves going to a county shelter if no other rescue is able to help. Even the finest shelters are stressful for a cat or dog who has just lost his loving guardian. Every pet guardian can do something right now to prevent this from happening to her beloved four-leggeds.

Include your pets in your will. Ask friends and family to commit to caring for your pets in the case of your passing. If necessary, find a loving shelter or sanctuary that will guarantee your pet a home in return for inclusion in your trust. It is the least we can do for the unconditional love our pets give every single day.

Behind the Scenes

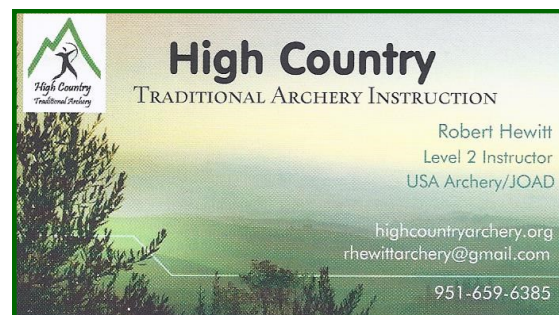
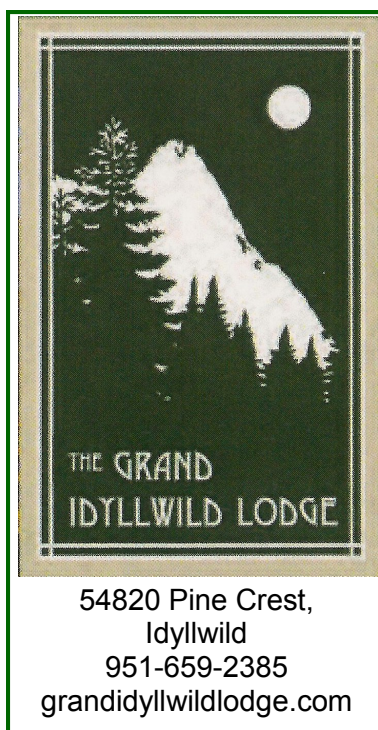
A Dog is Found, a Call to ARF

What happens when a caring community member finds a loose dog and calls ARF? A lot happens! The call usually comes to ARF's "Search and Rescue" line. If Janice isn't able to answer the phone immediately, a voicemail is left. Voicemails are also left at ARF's main number. Once the message is retrieved, a return call is made to make arrangements to scan the dog for a micro chip. If the dog is running amok on the streets, ARF will share this information on Facebook, but its volunteers are neither equipped nor trained to chase down loose dogs.

Hopefully, the dog is in someone's possession and micro chipped, with the contact numbers are current. In this case, voila! The dog is returned home in no time, but all too often the contact info associated with the micro chip is out-of-date and useless. At that point, the search for an overnight foster begins. Signs are posted in the area where the dog was found, and photos of the dog are posted on ARF's Facebook page. If the dog was found on Highways 74 or 243 outside of our communities, we post signs on the highway nearest the area he was found.

If the pet's guardian or an overnight foster cannot be

Continued on page 6



A Dog is Found, ARF is Called continued

found, ARF volunteers panic just a bit. Because ARF is a rescue and not a shelter, it doesn't really have a place to house a dog. If the dog is very small and very quiet, it *might* be able to be kept inside the ARF House *for just one night*, but if it is a large dog, sadly it will have to go to San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus.

What help does ARF need to take care of found dogs?

1. Pet guardians: BE CERTAIN your dog is micro chipped and the associated contact info is current.
2. Pet guardians: Have a collar w/ a phone number on

your dog at all times. No tag? Use a permanent marker to write your number directly onto the collar.

3. Pet guardians: Check your yard for breeches in security on a regular basis, and correct the problem!
4. Pet guardians: Make certain your pet sitter knows to call ARF in case the dog disappears.
5. Community members: Consider opening your doors to foster a dog for a night, a week, or longer. Overnight fosters are desperately needed to save a dog from heading down the hill to a shelter.
6. Community members: Please corral a loose dog into your yard or onto your deck if at all possible, then call ARF. If you just a dog running loose, call ARF and send a photo. The image and info will be spread via social media. Hopefully someone will recognize the dog and contact his family.

The number of dogs found loose in Idyllwild and its surrounding communities is astounding. Between January 1 and September 9 of this year, ARF has dealt with **62 found dogs!** Each time a dog is found, one of four ARF full time volunteers steps up to 1) pick up the dog or meet it at ARF to scan for a micro chip, 2) fill out paperwork, 3) find a foster, 4) post photos on social media, 5) create "found" signs, 6) post the signs, and 6) reunite the dog with its family, educating if necessary. In the worst case, that volunteer makes contact with animal control and waits for an officer to arrive OR drives the dog down the hill to the shelter. Many family dinners have been interrupted or outings canceled in order to help these wandering pups.

With help of pets' families and community members, ARF hopes to see the number of loose dogs decline so that finding a dog will eventually become a mere novelty.




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ARTIONS



By Lois Sheppard



Students with Red Rose after-school program of the Los Angeles area spent a morning at ARF helping to deep clean the cattery. The program, which also offers seasonal camps, strives to offer youngsters positive, fun activities that incorporate giving back to the community.



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Baxter' Buddies continued

ven. Metta is now in training to be a certified therapy dog. She has three canine siblings and has mastered romping through the meadow. Robert and Janice got up at "oh-dark-30" one morning to get Metta to the airport to be flown to her new mom. Janice fretted the entire day until she saw photos of Metta in her mom's arms.

Roxy: The other blue nose baby of the litter lives in Idyllwild with her mom Joanna. She has two canine siblings and a brand new fenced dog yard in which to play and run. Roxy inherited her mother's loving nature and has stolen the hearts of everyone she meets. Check out Roxy's Facebook page: Roxy Music Dog.

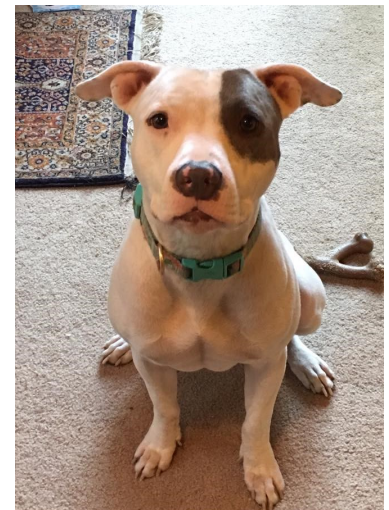
Beck: What a story this is! Beck's forever dad, John, is the hiker who found the mama dog Liv. When John learned, weeks later, that Liv was pregnant, he immediately contacted ARF to say he wanted one of the pups. He adopted Beck, the largest of the litter. As a matter of fact, his nickname was Big Boy. John chose the name Beck in honor of a friend who had recently passed away. Beck is living the good life in Las Vegas with his loving dad.

Liv: When Jill adopted Liv, she had no idea what she was in for! Her one-dog household was soon a six-dog household. Liv is an extraordinary dog who is well-mannered, affectionate, and the perfect companion (and she was a great mama to her puppies!).

These six Pitbulls are wonderful ambassadors for the breed. Those who are skeptical of the breed really need to meet Liv or one of her babies. Skeptics will see just what wonderful family members Pitbulls can be. 🐾



Beck with John



Pregnant Liv (L) soon was back in shape after nursing her five beautiful babies.



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Evacuation?

Don't Forget to Prepare for Your Pet!

Living in California, one must always have emergency plans at hand - earthquakes and fires can have residents evacuating at a moment's notice. As a California resident, if you haven't made evacuation plans and created evacuation kits, the current natural disasters happening across the country should finally spur you into action.

You might have a kit in the trunk of your car containing extra clothes, water, medications, food, cash, and a radio so you and your family members can survive at least 72 hours. Good for you! BUT have you considered what your four-legged family members will need when they are evacuated with you? Are you prepared to care for Fido and Fifi?

The ASPCA has compiled a comprehensive list of items for your pet's basic disaster kit. This list includes:

- Food and water for at least five days for each pet, bowls, and a manual can opener if you pack canned pet food. Keep an extra gallon of water, along with water for you and your family, so that your pets will remain hydrated.
- Medications and medical records should be included and stored in a waterproof container. A pet first aid kit and book are a very smart idea. *ARF can help you with a list of items for your pet's first aid kit.*
- Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop, and garbage

bags to collect pet's waste.

- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers. Make certain your pet is wearing a collar w/ identification that has current info. Make certain micro chip contact info is current. Carriers should be large enough for your pet to stand and turn around.
- Include current photos of you with your pets.
- Include written instructions pertaining to your pets' feeding schedules, medication administration, and medical and behavioral issues. Have your veterinarian's name and number at hand.

For mountain residents:

Make arrangements with a neighbor to get your pets in case of an evacuation and you are off the mountain. This person should know where to locate crates, leashes, collars, etc. Better yet, this person should where to locate your pets' evacuation kit so he may grab it when getting your pets. If this person is unable to guarantee holding your pets for up to three days if necessary, *make arrangements in advance* with off-the-mountain family, friends, or boarding facility who will care for your dogs/cats until you can get to them. This person can deliver your pets or meet up with your designated caregiver once evacuated.

A disaster can happen at anytime of the year. Don't put off preparation. Get started today! 🐾



Trainer Talk

Leader of the Pack? Dominance in a Dog's World

With the proliferation of dog training television programs, the discussion of dominance and pet dogs is commonplace. "Little Lulu is the alpha dog!" "I am the leader of *my* pack!" "Fido plays like that because he is showing dominance!" Dominance is likely offered as an explanation for many dog behaviors, and some trainers believe dominance is the path to well-trained dogs.

What is the definition of dominance when it comes to domestic dogs? The first definition relates to interactions between dogs. In this usage, dominance is defined as the power to control access to desirable resources and refers to the relative status of two dogs. In the absence of two dogs, an individual dog cannot be described as dominate because this definition refers to two.

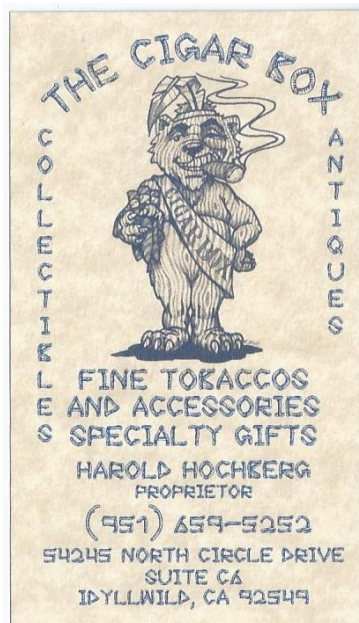
The second, and more controversial definition

relates to the dog-human interaction. Trainers who follow the school of thought that the human must be dominate believe the human must exert this dominance in order to get the dog to "behave," such as in staying off of the furniture, not walking through the doorway first, and making a resting dog move rather than walking around him. Today, fewer and fewer trainers subscribe to these ideas than in the past.

Dominance between dogs has undergone more study recently by scientists. Ethologist, Becky Trisko, PhD, studied a group of 24 dogs that regularly engaged with one another at day-care. What she found was a dominance hierarchy among the dogs, but only about 30 percent of the pairs had clear dominance relationships. Dominance rank correlated with age (older dogs tended to rank more highly), but not with size. Contrary to common belief, neither mounting nor performing chin-overs were relative to status. Not once in 224 hours of observation did she observe an "alpha roll."

Trisko observed that dominance was not about

Continued on page 11



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Dogs and Dominance, continued

coercion, force, or fighting, but rather it was about an understanding by both individuals of their relative social status.

In relating her studies to and discussing the use of dominance by humans to train dogs, Trisko said, "Dominance has been wrongly equated with aggression and used to rationalize the use of physical force and intimidation by humans toward dogs. Misunderstanding of the concept of dominance have led to unnecessary physical punishments and abuse of dogs by humans."

Alarmingly, there is evidence that such training styles can create problems. In a 2009 study by M.E. Herron, it was found that these dominance reduction techniques were counterproductive. The confrontational methods associated with training styles that insist humans "get dominance over" the dogs caused aggressive responses in 25 percent of the dogs. Techniques such as grabbing a dog by the jowls and shaking, hitting or kicking, staring, performing alpha rolls (also called "dominance downs"), and physically forcing a dog to release an item were more likely to result in aggressive behavior than were gentler, positive methods.

If we take a look at what we know about dominance between dogs, we see that using forceful methods can actually create problem behavior as well as an increase in a dog's fear and anxiety. "If dominance relationships between dogs and humans are at all similar to dominance relationships between dogs, then dominance does not apply to all relationships, and when it does apply, it does *not* require the use of intimidation or physical force," said Trisko.

Simply summed up, we must understand the animal with which we coexist. Understanding how social dominance does and does not apply to dogs is part of knowing who dogs are.

-Janice Murasko

KPA CTP

APDT

Herron, M.E., et al. 2009 Survey of the use and outcome of confrontational and non-confrontational training methods.

Trisko, R.K. "dominance, Egalitarianism and Friendship at a Dog Daycare Facility." 2011



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