

RUFF Times



Volume I Issue 11

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

July 2012

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Anza Gang Update

Some find homes, others still looking

Paws up to our Anza Gang for living in the moment. We continue to train, socialize, and medically care for a few.



Sydney, the mini Aussie and the oldest of the rescue was the first to be scooped up into someone's arms. He spoke right up and his human listened. Sydney now lives in perfect harmony with Chloe, our ARF chiweenie. Sydney needed extensive dental care, but was loved and cherished through it all.

Whisper, our long haired Chihuahua has found his forever family, too. Still a bit shy, he is learning to love the leash. And sometimes he gets to visit the beach!



Lil Stevie, our long haired Chihuahua sits on his pillow with a friendly greeting to all visitors. Partially blind, Stevie is self sufficient. His gorgeous blonde hair, and his soft demeanor makes him wonder why he is still living at the ARF house.



Charlie Brown and Chip, the teacup Chihuahuas have shown their own personalities. Charlie will bow, especially when food is being prepared, and then twirl faster than a top when dinner is served. He likes to give a few kisses and is happiest in your arm or your purse.



Chip is just a pistol. Chip the Skip is the alpha of the cups, but alone has a heart of gold, looking for that special someone.



President: Maria Lehman
Vice President: Andrew Kelley



A non-profit organization

P.O. Box 719, Idyllwild, CA 92549 (951) 659-1122

ARF House: 26890 Hwy 243, Idyllwild

arfidyllwild.weebly.com

Secretary: Janice Murasko
Treasurer: Mary Lou Prosin



Max is Mountain Mayor

Congratulations and a big thank you to the candidates in last month's mayoral campaign. Max, elected to be Mayor of Idyllwild, will be supported this year by his vice mayor, Hogan, and council members Ruby Doux, Roxy Du Dog, and Chip.

Also working with Max will be 11 commissioners: Stoli O' Rocks, Pet Advocacy: Stitch, Hydrant and Sanitation; Kula, Pet Tourism; Dawson, Outdoor Dining; Lucky, ARF Ambassador; Cayenne Pepper, Pet Style and Fashion; Inky, Litteracy; JoJo, Pet Recreation; Winston, Pet Safety and Welfare; Paris, ARF Cattery Ambassador; Tots, Sadie's Clinic Ambassador.

ARF thanks the members of this mountain community for their overwhelming support of this fund raising event. The money generated will be used to care for the dogs and cats on the hill who most need our help. 🐾



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Trudy is back in the kitchen!



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Sadie Says

Letter From a Dog

Dear Friend,

It is my time to say goodbye. My legs are weakening, my sight failing, smells are faint... my spirit is fading, and I have been called home and away from you...

I know I leave you in loneliness...that is the way of people when they say goodbye. We are different. We don't have regrets or wish that we could alter the story of life.

Although I have been called away, I leave you with memories of our life together....when you smiled, I knew why I was here...we trusted each other. Unlike people, I would never hurt you...It is not an instinct I possess.

I love you...and I love food and smelly things and balls and Frisbees and bones. There is not much more to me than that.

By now, you must know that there is always a goodbye hovering in the shadow of a dog. We are never here for long, or for long enough.

We were never meant to share all of your life, only to mark its passages. We come when we are needed. We leave when it is time. Death is necessary. It defines life....

I hope, in your grief and loneliness, that you will consider how sad it would have been had we not had this time together...

Thank you...

And finally, I ask these things of you: Remember me. Celebrate me. Grieve for me. And then, when you can, let me go, freely and in peace.

When you are ready, do me the great honor of bringing another dog into your life, so you can give and receive this gift again. 🐾

(Excerpts taken from Going Home: Finding Peace When Pets Die by Jon Katz.)



ARF Wish List

It is so easy to help ARF in its mission, even for those who are short on time and just cannot volunteer. ARF has a "wish list" of items that are vital to its daily operations. Please consider picking up one or more of these items and dropping them off at the ARF House. Your donation will be greatly appreciated!

dry adult dog food, canned dog food, laundry soap, bleach, cleaning supplies, dog treats, chew bones, electric clothes' dryer

For those who have a little time to spare, volunteers are needed for spring yard clean up, gardening, future dog run construction/set-up, walking dogs or taking them on short hikes. Please contact ARF at 951-659-1122.

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Trainer Talk

Positive Reinforcement Dog Training Yields Results

A trained dog is a better pet. The owners are happier, and in turn this makes the dog happier. The decision a responsible pet owner has to make is which method of training to use.

Traditional dog training uses verbal and/or physical correction, and sometimes punishment, to get the dog to “behave.”

Positive reinforcement training uses no corrections or punishment and focuses on the dog’s desired behaviors as opposed to focusing on its undesired behaviors. Clicker training, widely used in zoos and marine parks, is a proven and effective positive reinforcement method.

What is clicker training?

Clicker training is the use of a small, handheld clicker, which serves as a marker signal. It is a science-based system for teaching behavior.

Trainers use a marker signal (the sound of the clicker) to tell the animal when it’s doing the thing that will pay off. The system was first used widely by dolphin trainers, who needed a way to teach a behavior at a distance and without physical force.



In traditional training, the trainer tells an animal what to do, make that behavior happen (using force if necessary), reward good results, and punish mistakes. In clicker training, the trainer watches for the desired behavior, marks the instant it happens with a click, and pays off with a treat. The treat may be food, a pat, praise, or anything else the animal enjoys. If the animal makes a mistake, the trainer waits and lets it try again.

Clicker trainers focus on building behavior, not stopping behavior. Instead of yelling at the dog for jumping up, the trainer clicks and treats it for sitting. Instead of kicking the horse to make it go, trainers click it for walking. Then, click by click, the trainer “shapes” longer sits, or more walking, until the wanted results occur. Once the behavior is learned, the trainer keeps it going

with praise and approval, saving the clicker and treats for the next new thing to be learned.

Animals quickly learn that the marker signal means, “Something good is coming.” They then realize they can make the trainer click by repeating their behavior. They become *enthusiastic* partners in their own learning.

Why is clicker training effective?

When an animal intentionally performs a behavior in order to bring about a desired consequence, as clicker trained animals do, they are learning in a way that researchers call “operant conditioning.” Animals (and people) may also associate an action, event, place, person, or object with a consequence, whether pleasant or unpleasant. The more a certain event or environment is paired with a particular consequence, the stronger the association. This type of learning is called “classical conditioning” and represents reflexive or *automatic behavior, rather than intentional behavior.*

While clicker training initially employs classical conditioning, it quickly becomes operant conditioning as soon as the animal intentionally repeats an action in order to earn a reward. *Training through operant conditioning results in purposeful behavior, while training through classical conditioning results in habitual behavior.*

The difference between an animal that behaves with purpose, rather than by habit, is vast. Clicker trained or operantly conditioned animals *try to learn* new behaviors. They remember behaviors even years later because they were aware of them as they learned them, rather than acquiring them without awareness. They develop confidence because they have control over the consequences of their actions. They are enthusiastic because they expect those consequences to be pleasurable. In other words, they offer desired behaviors because they want to please and experience rewards, *not because they want to avoid punishment.*



-Janice Murasko
KPA CTP

Inaugural Poem

ARF asked local Marshall Smith to be its poet laureate at the recent mayoral inauguration, and at the event, Marshall read the poem he wrote especially for occasion. Have your tissue at hand...

I AM FOUR LEGGED

By Marshall Smith

I am four legged,
 descended from powerful prides and predatory packs,
 rulers of our own dominions.
 I have walked with you now for thousands of years
 from your campfires to your farms to your cities.
 Once fiercely independent, I have grown compliantly
 dependent.
 Once wary and aloof, I now rush to the sound of your
 voice.
 When you leave, my only thought is your return
 Nothing is more important.
 When you are happy with me, I rejoice and frolic
 Nothing is more important.
 When you are frightened, sad or ill,
 I remain at your side, ready to protect, ready to comfort,
 ready to heal.
 If you die or discard me, my world, in all that is impor-
 tant, comes to an end.
 I then wait with fear for what may come next.
 Will someone else love me as you have?
 I am four legged.
 Look into my eyes and see the long road I have traveled
 to be with you.
 Look into my eyes and see my ancient and regal past.
 Look into my eyes and see, always, my love.
 I am four legged. I have had many names.
 But the name of which I am most proud, the one I prize
 most is
 friend, your friend, your always friend.



Dogs will be Dogs; Play it Safe!

Riverside County and State Forest laws require all dogs to be leashed when in public. Then why do we see dogs off leash in town, in campgrounds, and on trails? Ask the dog's owner and you might hear, "Oh! He never strays," or "She always comes when called. Always!"

But listen to this. Just last month, ARF received a call from a very distraught young man who was in Boulder Basin campground. He'd stopped just to admire the view and had his small dog with him...*off leash*. Soon, another vehicle pulled in, and out jumped an *unleashed*, very large dog that immediately saw the small dog and gave chase. They both ran off, the small dog terrified. Eventually the larger dog returned, but the small dog continued running for its life.

Continued on page 9

**All dogs are good dogs.
 Some just need guidance!**

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Water: A Nutritional Requirement for Cats

NOTE: The following is an article written and shared by Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Water is the most important of all the nutrients. An animal can lose all of its fat and half of its protein and survive, but only a 10% loss of body water causes serious illness. On a hot day, the average cat or dog can become dehydrated in only a few hours if fresh water is not present. Water is so essential that it is often taken for granted. Considering the huge quantity and importance of water consumed in a lifetime, it is important that the quality of the water is the best possible.

How much?

There are many different factors that affect the needed intake of a cat, dog, kitten, or puppy - so many that it is always wise to provide access to water at all times so that the animal can regulate its consumption as needed. A general rule of thumb is that an animal needs to consume 2.5 times the amount of water, as its daily intake of food. If an animal eats 2 lbs. of dry food it should consume 5 lbs. of water. (There are 8 lbs. in a gallon.) If he eats 4 oz. of dry food, he should drink 10 ounces of water (1¼ cup). Factors such as high heat and exercise or lactation can increase the needed amount two or three times above normal. Most animals consume more than their daily requirement. A little extra water consumption never hurts, but too little can be catastrophic. Animals that eat canned foods get most of their moisture from the food and may drink much less than an animal on dry food.



Water quality

Not all water is created equal. The amount of total dissolved solids is a useful overall index to the quality of drinking water. Water containing less than 5000 parts per million of total dissolved solids is considered acceptable for pets. Water containing more than 7000 parts per million is considered unacceptable for livestock. All untreated water can harbor bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Giardia is one of the most common problems acquired through untreated water. Household tap water is considered to be very safe, though just as with people, water that is high in nitrates, iron, or magnesium can pose long term health risks. Many pet owners give their animals bottled water if their source is questionable. However, the finest water in the world will not help if it is placed in a dirty container.

Unwashed water bowls can harbor all kinds of bad organisms. Water bowls should be washed daily and disinfected periodically. Stainless steel bowls are the easiest to keep clean and resist scratches that can harbor bacteria, stoneware crock-style dishes are also a good option. Buy a good quality bowl and after it starts to look worn and scratched, replace it. Remember that if you would not drink the water from your pet's bowl then neither should your pet. One other consideration in quality is temperature. Pets prefer cool water in the summer and room temperature water in the winter. If you have an outside pet be sure to provide them with a heated water bucket or container. Snow is not an acceptable form of water for cats or dogs. 🐾

"I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior."

-Hippolyte Taine

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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.

I am so excited to be alive to witness a first on this mountain...a beloved pet is our mayor! And what is even more exciting is two cats and thirteen other dogs make up his cabinet. Wow. Never thought I'd see the day. I digress. Back to business!

This month I will tell a very happy story (although all of mine are!) about my feline friend Mina. Mina had been living in the ARF cattery, but on the day of the mayoral inauguration everything changed. Mina found her forever family, and now she is loved by the Mayor of Banning and his wonderful wife. The Mayor told me the entire story...



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

My wife Katryn & I attended the ARF Mayoral Event. The event was our first visit to the ARF House, and we were very impressed with the volunteers, the foster families, and the facility. After greeting everyone, Katryn made a beeline for the pets available for adoption. We didn't NEED any more pets. We have a house full and a pet resort! But, I saw her holding Miss Mina and got lost in her beautiful cross-eyed baby blues. I glanced up at the adoption board and realized she was 13 years old. I didn't think twice about it, knowing we could give her a wonderful home and endless love.

How did you come to know about ARF?

Katryn and I came across ARF Idyllwild on Facebook and have been following and sharing the posts for about 8 months.

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

It was our hope that Miss Mina could help us introduce new kitties to our cattery. She was so laid back, and I watched how she let Monty snuggle up to her. What we didn't expect is how well suited she is for the position in the office, as well! Each morning, she rides to work with Katryn and gets settled in her office (she LOVES car rides!). In the office, she has a bed and is very comfortable watching the people, dogs and

cats check-in, out and come for tours. She waits patiently for a request to say "hi" and then calmly walks out into the reception area. If we have new kitties staying with us, she will wait patiently in the cattery for their arrival. A simple

hello and a guided tour, the new kitty finds the perfect place with the help of his feline host.

Is this pet your first pet adoption (from anywhere)?

No, we are big rescue supporters. In May, we adopted a terrier mix that only has three legs. She was hit by a train in Riverside and had to have it amputated. All our pets have been rescued or adopted from families that were unable to keep them in their homes.

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

Miss Mina gets along well with our other cats and the dogs. Her favorite place to sleep at night is on my legs. Katryn reminds me that I would never have allowed that. I guess there is just something special about that little girl.

Continued on page 8



Your Pet, the Vet, and Fun in the Sun



To the vet, or not?

A trip to the veterinarian's office most likely isn't at the top of your fun things to do list, and it's probably not on your pet's list either, but there are times when the visit is necessary. So when do you know it's necessary to put Fido into his travel harness, buckle up in the car, and head to the vet's office? Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine offers a list of symptoms that tell you it's time to go.

- Abnormal swelling/lumps
- Sudden collapse
- Weight loss or weight gain
- Appetite loss/difficulty eating
- Sores that don't heal
- Loss of energy
- Bleeding or discharge
- Persistent cough
- Foul odor
- Persistent lameness, stiffness, or limping
- Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating
- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Eating more than usual
- Excessive panting, scratching, water consumption, and urination.

Pets and Summer; Play it Safe!

The ASPCA offers the following suggestions to ensure a safe summer for your pets.

Visit the vet: If your pet hasn't been on year-round heartworm prevention, get it tested, and then begin YEAR-ROUND monthly prevention medication.

Shade & Water: Make sure your dog has plenty of fresh water, shade, and isn't over-exercised in the heat. On very hot days, let Fido stay indoors.

Overheating: Know the signs of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees.

No Parking! NEVER leave your pet in a parked car on warm or hot days, not even "just for a few minutes." "On a hot day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time-even with the windows open-which could lead to fatal heat stroke," says Dr. Louise Murray, Vice President of ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital.



"I see kids and pets as similars. With both of them, you give without expecting something monetary in return or having to deal with the 'what can you do for me' attitude, ... They just want someone to care and love them. That is all."
-Joe Green

Baxter's Buddies continued

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?)?

She's Mina. She'll always be Mina...maybe "The Beautiful Miss Mina" would be the only change.

Do you have any words of encouragement or recommendation for someone considering pet adoption? In every case, we have let the situation happen. Pets find us. Renaissance Pet Resort hosted a adoption event with many different agencies, and we planned on taking home a new dog, but it didn't happen. Two days later, Piper, our three legged dog came into our lives. It may be temporary or permanent. They find you when you need them most. Keep your eyes and your heart open.



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Quiet Creek

Help them find a home

Adoptees of the Month

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Yes, I am looking at you, because I think I want to do my happy dance and jump right into your purse!

Need a couple lumps of sugar for your teacup? Well, Charlie Brown is a teacup Chihuahua and has all the sugar you need.

Snuggle him in your arms or in your purse, walk on the leash to the coffee shop, and watch his magic as he wins everyone's heart. The best performance is at mealtime when he dances and twirls for his food, as he has practiced for so long to perfection.

Part of the Anza Gang Rescue, Charlie is good with other canines and felines. Come to ARF to visit him, but beware. He will dance his way right into your heart (and purse). 🐾

Dogs will be Dogs...continued

Both owners swore their dogs could be trusted off leash, because "he always comes when called." Regardless, the damage was done. Fortunately, the small dog survived two nights in the forest by itself and found its way back to the campground and into the arms of its owner. Needless to say, all involved were traumatized.

The bottom line: dogs will be dogs, and only a VERY, VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE of them are 100% reliable when unleashed. And no matter how well trained a dog is in recall, it will run if it fears for its life.

An owner might want everyone to know his dog is well trained and is afraid that putting it on a leash might give a different impression, but being a responsible dog owner is more important. Be smart. Be safe. *Keep your dog leashed when away from home.* 🐾

M
O
N
T
Y



Looking for the perfect cat? The softest pure white fur and sky blue eyes make Monty a joy to come home to.

His favorite pastime is snuggling in his cat tree and watching the world. Never a meower and litter box trained, you'll hardly know he's there. He always welcomes the human hand for a neck rub, especially before meals. He is a lover of anything "fishy" in his bowl.

A bit of a loner, Monty is good with other cats, will tolerate the canine crowd, and even has shared his meal with kittens.

Monty is 5 to 6 years old, and although his eyes show sadness for losing his human, he is forgiving once you touch him. Please give Monty a home so he can show you his love. 🐾



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