

Ruff Times

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Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

February 2014

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Director's Message

Share the love, with your pets



February is the month of love, so be sure to show your love for your favorite four-leggeds! Thankfully, it takes very little to make our pets happy. A scratch under the chin, some gentle petting, and a toss of the ball speak volumes. But for those of you who want to make the month of love a special one for your pets, here are some suggestions:



Get Online, open goodsearch.com, register Animal Rescue Friends of Idyllwild as your chosen charity, then search for some yummy dog or cat treat recipes, and make a special snack for Fluffy or Fido. Every search you initiate earns \$\$ for ARF!



Wash your pet's bed or favorite blanket. We often forget that our four-leggeds like a clean place to sleep and snuggle.



February is *National Pet Dentistry* month. Make an appointment to get his/her teeth checked and cleaned. Did you know that more than 80% of dogs over 3 years old have periodontal disease?



Respect your pet's intelligence by engaging her in some positive reinforcement training. There are many excellent books that

Continued on page 2



A non-profit organization

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arfidyllwild.weebly.com



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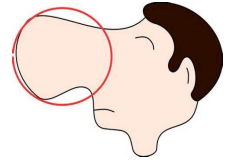
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Sadie Says

The Nose Knows!



Fortunately for people, dogs have been trained to “sniff out” cancer in their human friends, and fortunately for dogs, their guardians can do the same for them! People are able to “sniff out” several illnesses in dogs.

Diabetes: A dog or person with diabetes is unable to efficiently break down sugar to use as fuel for the body, which begins breaking down fat. Ketone bodies are then produced and accumulate in the blood. A dog’s body eliminates ketones through respiration, giving his breath a sweet odor which can be smelled by humans.

Kidney disease: Dogs with kidney disease have a buildup of urea nitrogen in the blood. A dog with high levels of blood urea nitrogen, resulting from compromised kidneys, will emit a smell of ammonia on his breath. Ammonia, a breakdown product of urea, contains nitrogen.

Urinary tract infection: A dog with a urinary tract infection

may pass urine that has a very foul smell, sometimes described as sour or “fishy.” A sudden change in the smell of your dog’s urine, smell or strength of smell, that doesn’t go away is a sign to get her to the vet for a workup. Dr. Joh Berg, DVM notes, however, that the absence of an odor doesn’t mean there’s *not* an infection. Other signs are more frequent urination or straining to urinate. *Note:* Prior to coming into heat, a female dog’s urine may become pungent.

Yeast infection: A bacterial infection in a dog’s ear can be especially pungent, or even somewhat sweet if the bacteria are of a specific variety. An infection in the ear will also be detectable by a brown, waxy discharge or a discharge that is in the form of a yellowish to green pus. *Note:* Ear infections sometimes result from mite infestation. The telltale sign is a glandular, dark brown material in the dog’s ear (think coffee grounds).

Parvovirus: Okay, so a dog’s diarrhea never smells good (eww), but diarrhea from a dog with parvovirus contains dead intestinal cells. Dead tissue has a terrible odor. Parvovirus is an extremely serious, life-threatening disease whose symptoms include lethargy, vomiting, and possible bloody, smelly diarrhea.

Oral tumors: If a dog has a tumor *in his mouth*, it will be noticed by his guardian. It is a sickening smell, hard to take in some cases. It comes from the necrosis (death) of cells. A *change* in your dog’s breath can also indicate a malignant tumor. Dr. Berg says in this case, “Don’t just chalk it up to doggie breath. Take your dog to the doctor, particularly because oral tumors are often in the back of the mouth, where they’re not really that noticeable.”

Severe periodontal disease: If your dog’s breath is particularly strong and foul, especially if it is in conjunction with loose teeth and pus, he probably has advanced periodontal disease. This means the gums surrounding his teeth have deteriorated to a significant degree. Get him to the vet!

Remember, if your dog passes your “sniff test,” this doesn’t mean she doesn’t need regular veterinary visits! Regular visits to the vet can head off serious illnesses, pain, and costly medical procedures.

Resource: Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Director's Message Continued

will guide you (*Don’t Shoot the Dog* by Karen Pryor is a great one), or hire a certified trainer to help.



Spend time with your pet! Take an extra walk, throw the ball, or surprise her with a new toy. Your attention is most likely the most valuable gift you can give.



Leave a legacy by making a donation in his name to an animal rescue group or shelter. Check around and find the organization that feels right to the two of you.



And most importantly, make sure your pet is *safe at home*, that s/he cannot wander off. And as insurance, make sure your dog is micro-chipped and wearing a collar with an updated tag. Being a responsible pet owner is a priceless gift.



10 Canine Commandments

Editor's note: I wish I could take credit for this beautiful piece, but I cannot. Unfortunately, I cannot give credit where it is due since I do not know who wrote this. Regardless, I hope you enjoy it as much as I. Here are the 10 Canine Commandments:

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. **Any separation from you will be painful to me.** Remember that before you bring me home.
2. **Give me time to understand** what you want from me.
3. **Place your trust in me.** It's crucial to my well-being.
4. **Don't be angry with me** for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your entertainment, and your friends. I have only you.
5. **Talk to me sometimes.** Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, **I'll never forget it.**
7. Remember before you hit me, I have teeth that could easily crush the bones of your hand, but **I choose not to bite you.**
8. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, **ask yourself if something might be bothering me.** Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old and weak.
9. **Take care of me when I get old.** You, too, will grow old.
10. **Go with me on difficult journeys.** Never say, "I can't bear to watch," or "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there.

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Animal Rescue Friends of Idyllwild (ARF) Is Raising Funds & Helping the Planet Through Recycling

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recyclables at the
ARF House**



Buy Recycled

**Buy High-Quality
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When you recycle...

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these recyclables!**



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Trainer Talk

Danger at the Dog Park: Does He Want to *Greet* or *Eat* Others?

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 stand-

ing 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. 🐾

Janice Murasko
KPA-CTP APDT



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's buddy came to ARF with two friends, Lady-Bug and Dozer, after they were found together at the transfer station. The smallest of the three (and I mean way smaller!) was named Bruce Almighty, which matched his bigger-than-life personality. His life, along with his name, changed for the better once he was adopted by Stephanie Yost and her family.

Q. How did you come to make this ARF adoption?

A. For almost a year my husband and I had considered adopting a young small dog. We stopped by ARF several times, and left our name. One day we got the call about Bruce Almighty. We met him, he met us and our other dogs, and soon he was the newest member of our family.

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

A. Heavens no! We have 3 other rescue dogs, and 5 rescue cats. And we've had other rescue dogs and cats (and even fish!) through the years.

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

A. Pico fit in immediately. He is a "big dog" in a tiny (less than 7 lbs.) dog's body. He runs around and plays with our 2 large rescue dogs, but sleeps on our bed with our other little rescue dog and rescue cats. Pico is great with the cats; he's

interested, but never aggressive.

Q. Did you keep the name ARF had assigned to your pet, or did you change it?

A. We changed his name. All of the pets in our house have either been named after literary references or food. Our cats are Brie, Crackers, and Martini, as well as Jules (after Jules Verne) and

Maggie (after Margaret Atwood). Our 2 large rescue German shepherds—biological father and daughter—are named Atticus and Scout (from "To Kill a Mockingbird"). We adopted Scout first (at 16 weeks), and named her after the book character because she was so mischievous, and then adopted her dad a year later from the same rescue society (so we had to name him Atticus, of course)! We also have Mr. Noodles (our elder statesman rescue terrier/miniature poodle mix). So El Señor Pico de Gallo (for a Chihuahua mix) just seemed to fit!

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

A. Gosh—way too many to tell! He is simply fun and fearless.

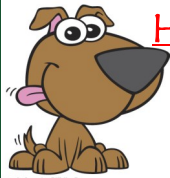
Q. How did you come to know about ARF?

A. We have had a weekend home in Idyllwild since 2008, very close to ARF's current location. We've seen the articles and announcements in the *Town Crier*, and have stopped by from time to time. (I actually lived in Pine Cove fulltime in the late 1980s—my oldest daughter is an Idyllwild native). So we're very familiar with Idyllwild and the community organizations.

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

A. We have a house full of rescue animals and are continually delighted by them all. It's vital to make sure that your intended adoptee will fit into your family of humans and 4-legged friends. But with the right mix of personalities, adoption really makes for one big happy family!





Help them find a home

Adoptees of the Month



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Chelsea is looking for her forever home to do her favorite thing...sit on her bed and *just look pretty*. This senior gal has a gorgeous coat with a tail to match. She is a shepherd mix, quiet, and shy at first. Chelsea loves to go for short walks, have a treat or two, and look pretty. She is good with other dogs and has no known health issues. And Chelsea celebrated her 10th birthday on February 11. Her wish is to have her own quiet home for the rest of her life.



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Her heart is full of love for that special someone. She loves to be groomed and held, as she purrs her delight. Easy going, loves cat naps, and the sun. This is Heidi, an eight-year old female tortoiseshell. Unfortunately she lost her owner in a tragedy. As if that wasn't enough, she also is a special needs cat. Heidi is a carrier of the corona virus, which means she would have to be completely isolated from all felines, or live in a home where she is the only cat. That is a simple request, as that is her only special need. Please contact ARF if you or someone you know, can allow Heidi to live the rest of her life safely in a home. 951-659-1122. Someone has to have a heart as big as Heidi's this Valentine's Day.



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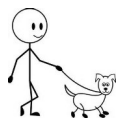
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Where Does Your Dog Belong?



Where does your dog belong? She belongs in a lot of places, most notably at home or on the end of a leash. ARF's Search and Rescue team has been called out to help find a lost dog, or to find the owner of a found dog, on average 10 times a month!

The Search and Rescue team is always ready and willing to help an owner look for her lost dog, and more importantly, the team is ready and willing to help dog owners find ways to better secure their beloved pets. It is dangerous for dogs, no matter where they live, to be out on the streets, but it is especially dangerous here on our mountain. Predators, elements, and a fast-moving highway are a recipe for disaster! No matter how "tough" an owner thinks his dog is, the fact remains that the dog could easily succumb to a severely cold, snowy night, an attack by a mountain lion, or a pack of coyotes. And even if he was lucky enough to avoid predators, a call to animal control by an irritated neighbor could land the innocent dog on death row at a shelter.

Walking a dog off-leash is iffy, at best. No matter how

convinced an owner is that her dog will always stay by her side, there is *never any guarantee*. She could be startled into the path of an oncoming car or irresistibly lured away by rambunctious squirrel or loping deer. And once she's gone, can the owner *guarantee* she will return when summoned? And even if she could, how can she protect her from what awaits around the corner or behind the tree while running loose?

Another thing to consider is mountain residents who are not so tolerant of dogs running loose in their neighborhoods. Owners who allow their dogs to run free in the neighborhood and owners who walk their dogs off-leash are in violation of the law (6.08.150 & 8.04.050 Riverside Co Municipal Code) and are subject to citations should a disgruntled resident file a complaint.

ARF's Search and Rescue team strongly encourages all dog owners to seriously weigh the consequences of not keeping their dogs on a leash and *safe at home*. 🐾

-Robert Hewitt

ARF Search and Rescue Director

ARF
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