



Ruff Times

Volume IV Issue 3

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

Nov/Dec 2014

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Director's Message

Thank You, ARF Supporters

As yet another year comes to a close, and I gaze on the festive twinkling lights surrounding our community, I can only embrace and share thankfulness from the ARF staff to our faithful volunteers, fosters, and donors, all of whom make up this community that is so brightly lit for this festive season. Each of you, I believe, has one special light for that one special furry friend.

Our little rescue in the mountains has several lights on our tree this year for each and every orphan that walked through our door, looking for safety and warmth. And we would like to extend our beam of light to reach out to every heart, soul and hand in thanks for your efforts this year in assisting us to save these forgotten and lost babies. Without you, we wouldn't have the paw prints on the floor, the wet puppy kisses or the fur on our clothes and furniture. And we would not have been able to experience the joy when each of these homeless animals found its forever human. Without you, there would have been no light.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays, and thank you all for keeping the ARF house bright with hope.

-Maria Lehman



A non-profit organization

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

ARF House: 26890 Hwy 243, Idyllwild

arfidyllwild.weebly.com



Director of Operations: Maria Lehman

Treasurer: Mary Lou Prosin

Search & Rescue Director: Robert Hewitt

Secretary, Editor: Janice Murasko

Vice-President: Teri Hardy

Sadie's Clinic Director: Claudine Ellis



Sadie Says

Happy Holidays!

We hope you are all enjoying the cooler weather and are staying warm. Remember to keep a warm place by the fire for your beloved pets. They do get cold and wet and can easily get sick from being wet or getting a chill. Remember to keep poisonous holiday plants out of the reach of your pets, as well as foods and snacks that can be harmful.

It is now the time of year where we are having our clinic only once a month. It is held on the first Wednesday of the month, unless the weather is too bad for Dr. Nastro to get up the mountain. In that case, it will be postponed until the (hopefully) next week or when the weather permits. As most of you know, you can call 659-1122, line 2, to leave a message for a clinic appointment. Calls are picked up daily by phone and returned in the order they are received (within 24 hours). Please be patient as there is no one in the office during the week, staffing the phones. Our calls are picked up by our volunteers, and we all do our best to accommodate everyone as quickly as possible. If you leave your appointment request on the ARF line #1 instead of the Sadie's line #2, there is always a chance it will take longer to return your call. We like to keep Sadie's and

ARF calls separate in an effort to reduce confusion.

Everyone at Sadie's and ARF is very dedicated to the well being of all pets. Everyone works hard to keep things running as smoothly as possible. We all wish you a most wonderful and merry Christmas and send wishes for a happy holiday season. Your pets, health, and well being are very important to us. 

Holiday Stress Isn't Just for Humans

The holiday season can be just as or even more stressful for your pets as it might be for you. PLEASE consider very carefully your pet's well being when deciding whether or not to take him to a holiday gathering, parade, or community event. Examine your reason for wanting to take Fido with you. Are you taking him along because you *think* he will enjoy the event or because you *want* him to enjoy it? *Odds are your dog would be much happier at home where it's quiet, the surroundings are comfortable and familiar, and there are no crowds of strangers towering over him, handling him, and making him feel uneasy.*

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By Lois Sheppard

Living in Harmony with Wildlife

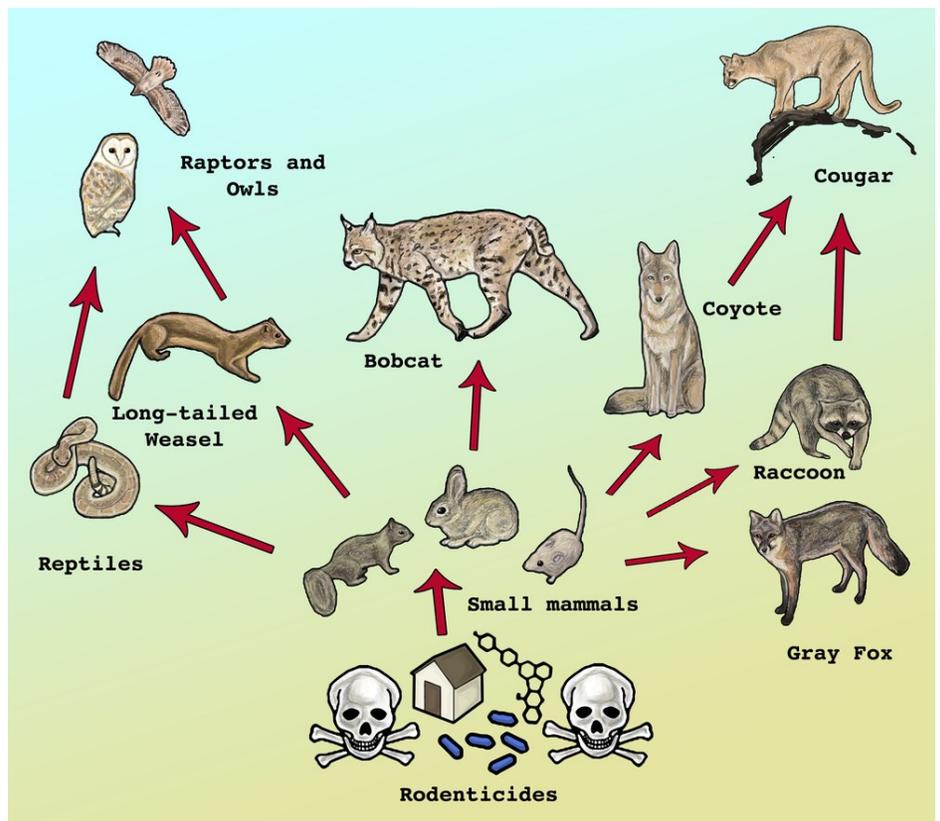
Although ARF volunteers do not handle wildlife, they are just as concerned for the welfare of undomesticated animals as that of family pets. A while back, Laurel Kline of UCLA brought to the attention of our mountain community to dangers of using anticoagulant rat poisons and the effects upon local wildlife. ARF is sharing this information with you in hopes of furthering Kline's mission to save wildlife from unnecessary death. The following is authored by Kline, a Ph.D. candidate.

Anticoagulant rat poisons are the most common type of poison use for rodent control worldwide. Locally, residents and pest control agencies use these poisons to kill small mammals such as woodrats, rabbits, and squirrels. These happen to be common food items for local native carnivores, although little is known about how these poisons affect non-target wildlife such as bobcats and coyotes. Predatory animals like bobcats, coyotes, hawks, and owls may accidentally consume poisoned small mammals, reducing the important predators that naturally control small mammal populations.

Local biologists have documented rat poisons having a significant impact on local bobcat populations since 2002. They have observed that bobcats do not die directly as a result of poisoning. Instead, the animals appear to be weakened after repeated exposure to rat poisons and die with severe cases of mange, an ectoparasitic mite disease. Over a period of weeks, bobcats with mange become progressively weaker as the mange spreads over their body, eventually dying in a state of extreme emaciation and covered

with mange mites. Often their behavior changes shortly before their death where they are seen more frequently in public areas or people's yards.

For the sake of our native wildlife, please use alternatives to rat poisons. The best pest control is to encourage their natural predators. Nesting boxes and perches for owls can be installed around your home (see www.owlnestboxes.com and www.wildwingco.com). Rodent proof your homes by sealing up holes. Remove unnecessary vegetation and trash in your yard that could be homes for small animals. If ground squirrels are a problem, remove food and water sources such as bird feeders and baths. Wooden snap traps and electric zappers are good for within-home use. 🐾





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 story is such a special one, because the four-legged who was adopted had been in ARF's care for **four years**. Yes, four years! Sally the blue nose pit, who came to ARF when she was very young, has finally found her forever home with Fawn "Elf" Ruth. It is a match made in doggy heaven!

I interviewed Elf and Sally just a few days ago. Elf said she had her heart set on a blue nose pit, and shortly after moving to Idyllwild (just three months ago), she began her search. Her internet search eventually led her to Petfinder.com where she saw Sally's photo. She immediately contacted ARF to arrange a meeting, and once they met she knew Sally was meant to be her forever fur-baby.

Elf has never had a pet pit, but has "co-parented" and done dog sitting for pits. "Pits are the most understood dog, but they are THE best," she told me.

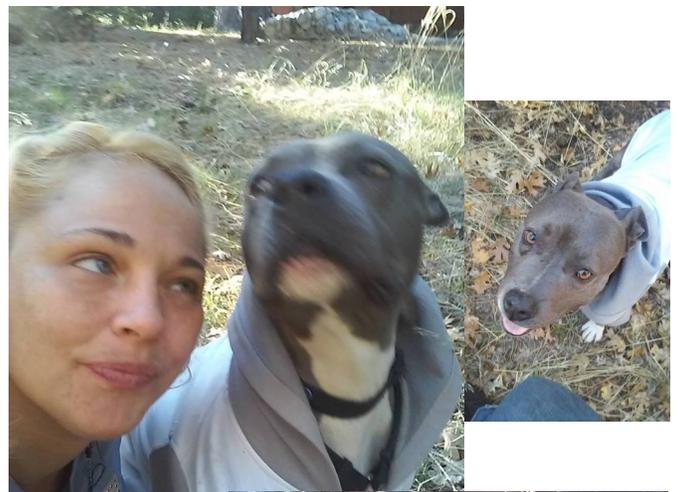
Sally is fitting into Elf's life perfectly. Sally keeps her mom warm on cold nights, curling up on Elf's bed. They take several walks each day, totaling anywhere from 3 to 6 miles. It seems that the long walks are just what Sally needs, as she really enjoys eating spaghetti and bread! Elf says Sally doesn't seem too interested in toys, but if she can get her paws on a loaf of bread, she is perfectly happy.

Elf chose to keep Sally's original name. "It fit her, and she had been called Sally for so long. I didn't see a reason to change it."

"Sally is such a cute dog. She loves to scratch her back, kind of like the Charmin Bear. She will find anything she can to enjoy a good back scratch."

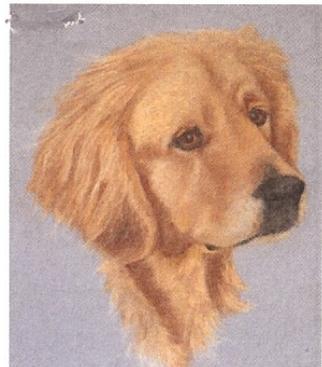
Even though Sally is a polite dog, she and Elf are participating in positive reinforcement training. Elf hopes to help Sally continue to learn new, healthy behaviors and how to get along with other dogs.

Congratulations and happy holidays to Sally and Elf. 





 DRE #01367581
Sheila Zacker
 Realtor Associate
 DRE # 01385817
 Village Center Office
 54274 North Circle Drive 
Cell: 951-675-0715
 Bus: 951-659-3425 Fax: 951-659-0180
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Tree Lighting Fun 2014



ARF had a great day on November 29 at Idy's annual tree lighting event, but Archie's day was even better as he met his forever family. ❤️

ARF thanks Cole, Zac, and Nate for being our elf and reindeer for the day, and thanks also go out to Tori, Lauren, and Cat for helping Mary Lou, Teri, Maria, Claudine, Robert, and Janice staff the booths.



The Groomer Says

Safe Holiday Fashion for Your Pets

I'm sure everyone is getting their pets ready for Christmas - freshly bathed, clips, bows, new jackets and sweaters. All of this is wonderful, and they will look so pretty for the family pictures you all will be taking.

I hope everyone will be very careful of anything on their beautiful outfits that can be chewed and swallowed. Be sure that they cannot be tangled up in a sweater or jacket. This can happen if the article is too large for your pet. They are like young children and must be watched. Even the zippers on new Christmas bedding covers can be a threat if swallowed. Keep an eye on those kitties, as they just love to chew and play with everything on your tree. You wouldn't want an electrical cord to be chewed through, possibly shocking your kitten.

These are just some reminders that are sometimes forgotten when we are all so very busy. Please have a safe and happy holiday season with your beloved fur babies. *-Claudine Ellis*





Bandit, formerly known as Bojangles, is living the good life with his dad Lon Haber. Lon says, " You have made my morning every morning for the past 2-and-a-half years...He is lucky, we are lucky...there's just a ton of gratitude floating around."



ARF thanks Lon and everyone who has made the decision to adopt a pet. There are so many thankful pets, yet there are even more hoping their holiday wishes for a forever home are granted this month.



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 daycare. 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 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



Help them find a home

Adoptees of the Month



The 12 Cats (and a few dogs) of Christmas

Dear Santa Paws,

The ARF house is decorated and all lit up, so you won't miss us when you arrive. Fur was flying and nails clippe as we had to look our best for our Christmas photos. And each and every one of us has been on our best behavior. We have our special wish list ready. We call it special because the ARF angels always tell us that we are special cats and dogs.



Dusty thinks it would be the cat's meow to have her very own Christmas tree with all those shiny ornaments, that just must be toys for her.

Our special wish this year is for Boomer. He, and all the cattery, wishes that he will find a home with cats, dogs, kids, and fun...and his own water table to play in.



Poppy wishes for more wet food and a few more mice



Ernie and Wilson wish for that special human that will love all of their extra toes.



Mr. Grey really wishes for anything Tommy does, as he is his idol. And maybe to go home with Tommy too.

Photography, pages 8 & 9, by ARF Angels Hannah Hardy and Brianna Tolman.

Special thanks to Fawn "Elf" Ruth for decorating the ARF House for the holidays.

Continued on page 9



Tommy would love his very own enclosed outdoor cattery with sun every day.



Mrs. Magoo wants nothing more than a castle all her own. And wet food please.



Whiskers wishes he was not so shy, so someone would love him.



Sadie has her paws crossed in the hopes that she can find her own human who will dance with her every morning.



Bill didn't want to dress up for the occasion. He's a special package all on his own.



Heidi wishes for good health and a new hairbrush for her torty fur.



Juliet wishes for an endless food bowl, served with a side of love.



Muffin wishes for endless walks, hugs, and love.



And Mini Cooper (a.k.a. known as Lima Bean) wishes for baskets filled with endless toys.

Does a Dog Grieve its Owner's Death?

This article was written by Dr. Nicholas Dodman, Tufts Animal Behavior Clinic.

Pets may also show signs of loss and mourning in ways that the family may not recognize. Although somewhat different, they do feel the loss of loved ones. Many have a significant degree of attachment to their owner that leads to anxiety and distress when even short-term separation is thrust upon them, let alone bereavement.

Perhaps, the most famous dog-grieving story of all time is that of Greyfriars Bobby, a Skye terrier owned by a Mr. John Gray of Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Gray passed away in 1858 and was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, Bobby was one of the conspicuous mourners. As time went by he never forgot his deceased master. Every day for the next 14 years until his own death in 1872, Bobby spent each night lying on his master's grave come rain, hail and snow. In honor of Bobby's devotion, a statue and water fountain was erected to his memory in 1873.

Which Dogs Suffer?

Dogs that have the hyper-attachment syndrome of separation anxiety are likely to be hard hit following their owners' demise. Cardinal signs of this all-to-common condition, affecting up to 15 percent of dogs in the United States, are as follows:

- Excessive following behavior ("Velcro dogs")
- Pre-departure anxiety as owner prepares to leave
- Barking, whining or howling immediately after the owner's departure
- Destructive behavior only in the owner's absence (and often directed toward doors and windows)
- House soiling only in the owner's absence
- Loss of appetite when the owner is gone
- Depression/inactivity in the owner's absence
- Self-directed licking behavior in the owner's absence (e.g. lick granuloma) or other repetitive, compulsive behavior
- Excessive greeting behavior on the owner's

return

- A checkered history of earlier neglect or multiple owners

A score of 5 out of 10 of the above possible signs confirms separation anxiety. Some dogs with separation anxiety are so bonded to one person that if that person leaves the dog with other people in a crowded room he, will display full-blown signs of separation anxiety. Such a dog will not take well at all to his owner going away on a trip or, indeed, to the permanent separation caused by death. The dog will panic at first and will eventually become depressed.

While we can't ask a dog how he feels, we can (and do) sometimes see all the visible signs of depression in bereft dogs that we see in a recently bereaved or otherwise depressed person.

Clinical Signs of Mourning in Dogs:

- Lack of energy and interest
- Absence of play
- Listlessness/moping
- Loss of appetite/anorexia
- Reduced social interactions
- Increased daytime sleeping
- Nighttime restlessness/insomnia
- Weight loss

In people, post-bereavement depression following the death of a loved one usually begins to decrease. Sometimes it lasts 2 months, and sometimes it lasts longer, requiring medical or psychological help. The same is true in dogs. Some will eventually get over their loss and form new bonds whereas others enter a seemingly interminable funk. The latter cases present a therapeutic challenge. 🐾

Yes, an old dog *can* learn new tricks! It's never too late.

Janice Murasko
nationally certified trainer
KPA CTP APDT
mtpawly.com
951-663-6642





Baxter says it's time to

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Rhythm and
Brews**

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Home Brewers' Competition

Dancing to the Blues

Great food

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Watch for more details

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