



# DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

"Working together to improve the welfare of reservation dogs and cats"

"Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó, ahít neilnishgo lééchqá'í dóó mósí baa' ádahwilyáago"

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Facebook: Blackhat Humane Society

## BOBBO'S STORY

**Sandra and I live in teacher housing on Newcomb, NM on the Navajo Reservation. In our three years here we have observed and have tried to help with the stray and abandoned dogs that have come our way. The most rewarding so far has been our experience of fostering Bobbo. While we were still living in the older teacher housing unit, we became aware of two stray dogs wandering around the school and housing areas. One was a female shepherd mix who seemed pretty healthy and a bit larger black, white and brown male dog who turned out to be a mix of shepherd, mastiff and...who knows. It was obvious to everyone that the male was ill, and most people assumed he was dangerous and should be captured and put down, though no one seemed interested in volunteering.**

When we moved to newer housing we also inherited the two dogs who seemed to hang around our home more than any place else. We decided to provide feed and water for the male and female daily, and slowly they came to know us and would even let us stay and watch them eat and eventually to pet them. The female would only tolerate that for a short time, but the male seemed to really enjoy it and would even follow me around a little bit. As they became more familiar with us and our dogs, they would sometimes follow us when we went out for a walk.

As winter and snow season came along, we placed a large dog house beside our side door and put first straw and then an old torn-up sleeping bad inside the dog house for warmth. By January we felt that we might be able to work with Blackhat Humane to capture and find placement for them. We started with the female who



allowed me to put a collar on her with a leash. With arrangements to connect in Window Rock, Arizona, we were able to get her into our car and transport her for possible foster placement in Flagstaff. The male dog seemed to be more of a placement problem due to illness.

We agreed to foster the male and immediately moved him into the backyard with the dog house where he settled in quickly and happily. We were very concerned about the

constant myoclonic movement and what appeared to be seizures that would last for a minute or two and put the poor guy out of commission for at least an hour. I took him to the vet in Farmington where he was examined, given blood tests, etc. I fully expected to be informed that he was very ill and needed to be put down, which would have been very sad because we were already very connected with Bobbo.

We were surprised and happy to discover that apart from the Myoclonic movement and seizures he had to quote the vet "beautiful blood work" and was otherwise

very healthy. The vet diagnosed Bobbo with distemper myoclonus as a puppy with permanent side effects. Eventually, he was placed on medication with the result of a decrease in the quantity and intensity of the seizures as well as a decrease in the intensity of

the myoclonic tics.

Almost from the beginning of our interactions with Bobbo we have found him to be a somewhat clumsy guy with an extremely sweet disposition who loves attention and affection. He gets along well with our three mutts (and they with him, in fact one of our little guys tries to take care of Bobbo when he has a seizure) and responded gently and positively to other humans.

*Continued on the next page*

## the Numbers

At Blackhat Humane Society, between January and November 2019, We:

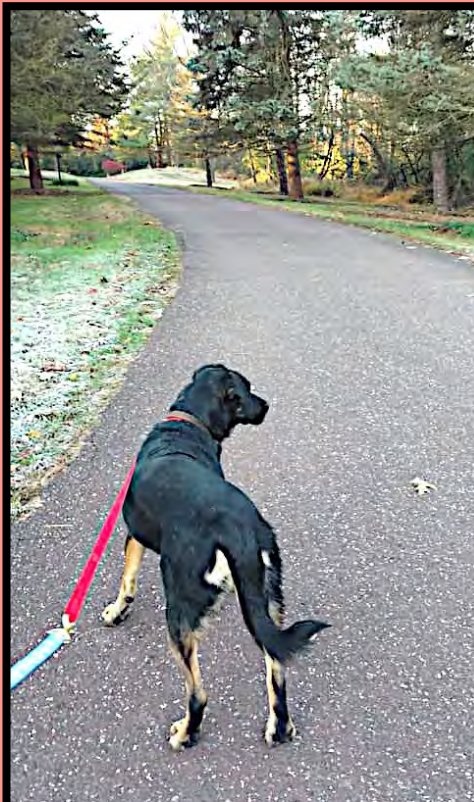
- Placed **140 dogs/cats** in to loving permanent homes;
- Transferred **70 dogs/cats** to partner rescues
- Spent **\$39,324** on veterinary services and medications
- Spent **\$4,994** on transportation.
- Spent **\$12,546** on foster/community support

## Ahéhee'

**Thank You** to: Canyon Pet Hospital, Cedarwood Animal Hospital, Continental Animal Wellness, Montezuma Veterinary, 4 C MASH, Littleton Vet Clinic, Navajo Nation Veterinary Services, Pets Return Home, Prescott Animal Hospital, Dr. Sand, Kaibab Vet Clinic, San Juan Veterinary, PETS LLC, K. Arrington, E.Caryl, I.Coleman, L & G Graham, J Jim, N. Shinn, R & K Meier, M Mitchell, J. Price, RH Sherwin, A. Tisdale and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.

## Memoriums

- E. Wolf – in memory of L. Manuelito
- M. Zerbe - In Honor and Memory of Cosmo - a very special dog with a very special family
- J. Jim & N. Shinn, long time BH supporters: In memory of Buster, beloved senior chihuahua, who passed away four months after his sister Daisy
- K. Mohan: "It is in honor of my girl Rosebud who passed recently. She was from behind the Holiday Inn in Chinle and a Navajo family who adopted me when I worked up there finally caught her for me. I was helping Blackhat at the time with Peggy Johnson and we had gotten every pup in the litter except Rosebud. She was very smart and very fast. I loved her from the first moment she left the den and so I kept her as part of my family. She was 11 and 1/2, and was diagnosed with bladder cancer July 2018. We were able to get another year with her thru treatment. Needless to say there is a big hole in my heart right now."



## BOBBO'S STORY *continued*

Bobbo's Angel from Pennsylvania, Patti, found Bobbo on the Pet Hospice site and made contact through Blackhat. Patti has a horse farm about 30 miles from Philadelphia and has provided a home for dogs with special needs, usually two at a time. Having recently lost one of her precious dogs a few months ago she was feeling ready to add to her family again. We discussed Bobbo's special needs, disposition (sweet & lovable and well behaved), shared pictures and backgrounds. This appeared to be a perfect match except for the distance. Patti, Blackhat and I were able to find and hire a company, PETSLLC that specializes in long distance transportation from the South to the Northeast for rescue pets (and only rescue pets). The pickup location was in Wichita Falls, TX, only a 10 hour drive from my home.

Bobbo and I took off for Texas and enjoyed each other's company, stopping for walks and food along the way. Staying overnight in Amarillo provided Bobbo with his first stay in a motel room. Bobbo has never slept on a bed before and has never tried. But about 1:00AM in the morning I felt a bump on the bed and then a warm body snuggle up against me. He slept well the rest of the night. The next day Bobbo was in the caring and capable hands of PETSLLC and on his way to Pennsylvania.

The many pictures and reports we have been receiving from Patti have all been positive. Bobbo has connected already with Patti and his new adopted sibling Daisy, taking walks around the farm and learning that it is okay to sleep on the couch. Many tears of joy have been shed in this household that was enriched by the presence of Bobbo and support from Blackhat.

*By Troy Craig Hill*

## Open House at Continental Animal Wellness Center Benefited Blackhat Humane Society



September 21st proved to be a beautiful day for The Continental Animal Wellness Center Open House and Fundraiser in Flagstaff AZ. Activities included educational talks and info including a live painted anatomy horse, face painting and photography, food, raffles, prizes, silent auction, and an adoption event. The public was invited to tour Continental's new exam rooms and meet Dr.'s Alicia Bruchman DVM and Cassandra Dobbin DVM. The Doctors gave talks on health topics, demonstrations on proper animal handling and restraining techniques, among others.

Blackhat was invited to set up a booth and volunteers came with plenty of foster dogs to show off, some with animal costumes donated to BHS at the event.

The event proved to be a huge success for BHS. Two of our pups were adopted together, and one dog went home on a trial adoption. By the end of the event, over \$1700 were donated to BHS From Continental Animal Wellness Center. A great big thank you to Continental for the donation, for organizing the event, and for being one of our trusted partners for veterinary services! And a huge thank you to the BHS volunteers who participated!



Puppy Henlock was adopted by a nice young man, who later returned to adopt his sibling Cocobolo as well!

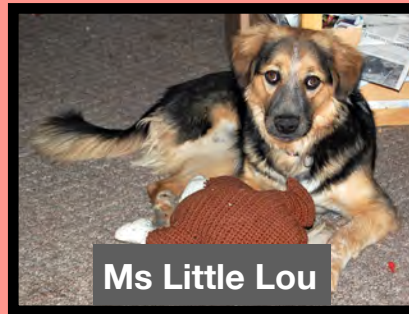
## Special BHS Dogs Looking for Homes

**Freya** was with a pack of 14 dogs dumped on the forest and subsequently caught over a period of several months. This pretty young girl with a blue eye is very loyal and sweet. After her ordeal she is a bit fearful and dog reactive in new situations. Socialization has been slow yet solid. She is just finishing up with obedience classes and will be looking for that special home.



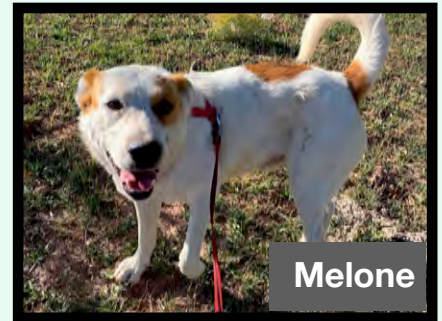
Freya

**Ms Little Lou** was found with a badly damaged, infected leg that needed to be amputated. But that didn't break her spirit. She's very happy, sweet, cuddly and playful. Pretty Little Lou is about a year old, and ready for her forever home. Since she has some physical limitations, our special needs adoption rate of \$95.00 applies. Check out her profile on our website. [Blackhathumanesociety.org](http://Blackhathumanesociety.org)



Ms Little Lou

**Melone** was taken in by a BHS foster mom when the local ranger came by with this big & gentle guy. Melone had been relinquished for eating an occasional melon and squash on a family's farm. Even though he eats his vegetables, Melone tested positive for heart-worm. Fortunately he is really healthy and has handled the treatment very well. He'll be up for adoption soon!



Melone

## Brewing Some Excitement About Rescue

Sponsored by Canyon Pet Hospital and many others, **Barks and Brews** in Flagstaff, AZ is always a fun event. Participants buy tickets that allow them to stroll downtown Flagstaff sampling microbrews at various outlets while local rescues strut their adoptable mutts.

This year we not only found several of our dogs good homes, but met a valuable new ally. Pets Return Home, located near Cottonwood, AZ, ended up taking all

five of our leftover puppies, and all have since found homes! We also received \$68 in donations!

It's a fun time for our fosters to meet each other — we're so far flung that rarely happens! And we get to meet other folks doing good work in our area as well.



## Pounce on these Gifts for the Holidays

All available at [www.BlackhatHumaneSociety.org](http://www.BlackhatHumaneSociety.org)

### T-Shirts

Blackhat Humane Society T-shirts are great way to both support and advertise Blackhat! They are \$22 for short sleeves, and \$27 for long sleeves. The price includes postage and handling. Visit our website at

[www.blackhathumanesociety.org](http://www.blackhathumanesociety.org)

### Year-End Donations

As you think about the end of year giving, remember that Blackhat Humane is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible. We have no building, no paid staff; 100% of money donated is used to care for abandoned animals of the Navajo Nation. Donations may be made electronically through our web site or Facebook page, or via mail Blackhat Humane, PO Box 3123, Durango, CO, 81302



## The 2020 Calendar

### 2020 DOGS OF THE NAVAJO

"Working together to improve the lives of dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation."  
 "Dine Bieyeh Bikad' goó, Ahil Nellinshgo Lééchaat' Dóó Mósí Baa' Adahwilyáago."



The 2020 calendar is out. Our volunteer designer Tiffany chose a new format, which allowed her to use some great photos that didn't fit well in previous editions. There's plenty of room for notes, Navajo and American holidays, Navajo names for the months and days not to mention 12 beautiful pictures of happy Rez dogs in their new homes! A great gift for your animal-loving friends! Get yours for only \$17 including shipping. Order through our website at :

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Blackhat Humane Society

December 2019

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