



# JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

“Working together to improve the welfare of reservation dogs and cats”

“Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó, ahít neilnishgo tééchqá'í dóó mósí baa' ádahwiilyáago”

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## Little Ava Saves The Day

Little Ava and her sibling were found roaming along the side of the road in a remote area on the eastern Navajo reservation. Fortunately a dog lover rescued them, had them treated for ticks and mange, and contacted Blackhat Humane Society for further help. Donna, one of Blackhat's regular puppy foster parents, stepped up to welcome them in. In short order, Donna's neighbor, Greg, who had helped her with many foster pups, fell in total love with Ava. He's an Iraq veteran who suffers from PTSD. Upon hearing about Ava, the local DAV office offered to pay for her training if Greg adopted her. So Greg adopted Ava and they meet once a week

with Kelly Canine from Badlands Search and Rescue in New Mexico, for Ava's training to be an Emotional Support dog for PTSD victims. Since completing that certification, she has entered training to be a bonafide Search and Rescue dog specializing in cadaver search. Greg reports that Ava has changed his life in subtle and significant ways. He is happier, less stressed, and Ava gives him a reason to get up and get out every day. Good dog, Ava!

## RIP Big Dog

Big Dog was an old soul, a scarred gentle warrior when he showed up at my home in Many Farms. His heart was huge and it finally gave out. He was the “uncle/big brother/nursemaid” to over 100 fosters who passed through my house over the last 8 years – always willing to share and take second place to them. He was my heart dog who can now run the mesa free of pain. -Maggie Gruschow

*(Editors Note: Since 2013 Maggie has been key to BHS' successful operations, serving as our treasurer / secretary extraordinaire. She's fostered many years longer with the help of Big Dog and others.)*



## Foster Corner The Truth About Ticks: They Suck!

Tick season seems to have come on suddenly and with a vengeance this year. If you live off the reservation, you may not have seen a tick before, but if you are fostering dogs from the rez, you will.

Ticks are tiny parasites that start out the size of a pinhead and quickly swell to the size of a large bb when engorged with blood. In addition to being gross, they can carry diseases, so you'll want to treat for them right away — and safely, as ticks can and do bite humans as well!

First, pull the ticks off the dog with a tweezers, being careful to pull from the head so you don't just burst the tick and leave the head in. Drop the ticks into a jar containing alcohol or bleach — NOT water, as it is surprising how long ticks can survive submerged in water! Be careful not to burst the tick. (It's a good idea to wear latex gloves while doing this.)

Then you'll want to treat the dog to kill any ticks you missed, plus prevent future bites. There are many treatments — collars, sprays, topicals, and these days, even pills your dog can eat. Blackhat will reimburse you for any treatment you choose for your fosters.

For young puppies, Hartz spray is mild but effective. We are hearing good reports about the edibles like Seresto — easy but expensive. Feelings about tick collars are mixed ... some people don't like to have that harsh medicine so close

to the dog's face. But this is the most economical option, and quite effective — and you can get ones that last for three to six months. The prescription ones you get from your vet work best. Cut off any excess collar and put it in your vacuum cleaner bag, so that if there are ticks in your house and you vacuum them up, they will die.

If your foster dog has a bad infestation when you pick him up, it might be best to ask your vet for a tick panel (Blackhat will pay for this too). This will pick up any of the tick-borne diseases. They are rare, but we have had a few cases over the years.

Don't forget to spray your dog's bedding with Hartz or another spray. Ticks can live without a host for weeks. If the dog has been out in the yard, it's not a bad idea to spray the yard too.

After handling a tick-infested dog, check yourself for ticks!



## Chris Is Gone, And The Work Goes On



As many of you know, our beloved board president, Christine Cape, was killed in a head-on collision near the Colorado-New Mexico border on April 23, coming home from two meet-and-greets for her foster dogs.

Chris was a full-time volunteer and we miss her dearly. But Blackhat is more than one person, and the work goes on.

Since Chris's passing, we have adopted out or transported more than 30 pets, and we still have almost 40 in foster care. We

are grateful to all those who have stepped up in our time of need, especially Kristine Gruda and Crystal Clark of Gallup who, upon hearing the news, immediately went to Chris's house and made sure her seven personal dogs were fed and cared for.

We are happy to report that, with the help of these two, La Plata Humane Society and NMDOG, six of Chris's seven pets have found permanent homes. Her old dog Baxter is doing well at NMDOG in Albuquerque, where he is being treated for his elbow dysplasia and has found a friend. He has been on the local TV station and we hope he finds a forever home soon, hopefully with his new buddy.

We are working on a way to honor Chris, perhaps with a big adoption day or a rez dog reunion hike, which she loved. We'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, the best way we can honor Chris's memory is to continue the work that she loved. Donate, transport, foster, adopt ... if you have a place in your heart for rez dogs (and the occasional cat), you're in the right place.

## the BHS Numbers

### For March-June 2018:

- **\$18,856.93** spent -on vet/meds
- **\$5,443.07** spent on foster & community support.
- **52** dogs/cats adopted.
- **44** dogs/cats transferred to partner rescues.
- **36** animals in foster care seeking forever homes (as of July 1.)

## Ahxéhee'

For Pets' Sake, Gallup McKinley County Humane, LaPlata Humane, NM Dog, Nuzzles & Co, Paw Creek Training, Paw Promise, RezDawg Rescue, A. Cerci, C. Clark, I Coleman, K. Gruda, J Price, M. Privet, RH Sherwin, A. Stell, the many who contributed in memory of Chris Cape, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.

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