



# OCTOBER 2018 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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## A Cat Named Mouse

At Blackhat, we don't give up easily on an animal. Ticks, mange, parvo, distemper, feral behavior ... believe me, we've seen it all. But when we first saw the cat a couple had rescued at the Chinle hospital, we wondered if euthanasia would be the kindest option.

The frail tom was so emaciated, he was the weight of a two-month-old kitten. He couldn't walk without falling over. He wouldn't eat. He had diarrhea. He couldn't seem to make it to the litter box, and he stank of urine.

Surely he was sick, we thought. Surely he was unadoptable.

With trepidation, we called our faithful cat foster, Alex, in Durango. She was willing to work with him for a week and see if there was hope. His first vet visit, he tested negative for feline leukemia. The good folks at Durango Animal Hospital couldn't find anything wrong with him except extreme malnourishment and a possible

intestinal blockage. They asked Alex to give him two weeks. If he didn't gain weight, there wasn't much they could do. If he put on at least a pound, there was hope.



At first Alex was ready to give up. The tabby didn't want to eat and he stank up Alex's small apartment. She talked about giving him back, but when the day came that somebody was going to Durango and could pick him up, she balked. "Pyro," as she had started calling him, because he still had a spark of life, was gentle and

affectionate. He was getting more stable on his feet, he was eating, and his bones seemed a little less obvious.

"Maybe if there was some way I could groom him," she mused, "so he wouldn't smell so bad."

As luck would have it, Blackhat President Cindy had observed a van with a "mobile cat groomer" logo on it while driving around Durango previously, and

mentioned it to Alex. Alex did some Googling and came across Gwen's Sassy Cats, the mobile service. The Blackhat board agreed to pay for a cat grooming, something we had never encountered before.

As Gwen was carefully bathing the poor emaciated fellow, she found herself more and more intrigued. Alex told her his story, and that he was a rescue from the Navajo reservation. Gwen had seldom seen a sorrier excuse for a cat, but, as Alex had observed, he seemed to have a spark. Miserable as he looked, he was enjoying life ... he seemed to have hope!

Gwen waived the grooming fee, and a few days later, asked if she could adopt Pyro, whom she renamed Mouse because of his grey color and mild disposition.

A few days after he went home, Gwen texted us with this update: "Mouse has come in and with a very strong yet gentle assertiveness, has taken top spot at the feeding bowls. He is slowly exploring his new outside world. ... He's fitting in exactly as I hoped he would."

And he has taught us a valuable lesson. Even the most pathetic creature deserves a chance!

## Foster corner: Should I Give My Dog CBD Oil?

More and more people are using CBD oil, a non-psychoactive ingredient in hemp and marijuana, for everything from memory function to joint inflammation.

Most of the studies so far are inconclusive, but people swear by the stuff.

It was only a matter of time before the hemp mongers started marketing formulations for dogs and cats.

In pets, CBD is used for anxiety and arthritis. It's available at many pet stores and over the internet.

Several of our foster parents have tried CBD with varying degrees of success. It has not done wonders for our chronically anxious little feral, Niyol, but others have reported it calms whiny dogs and is good for emergent situations such as car rides and crate-training, and several volunteers have mentioned it visibly helps their older dogs with their joint pain.

The main thing to remember about CBD is to pay close attention to the concentration and the dose. The concentrations vary from 250 to over 800 milligrams, and with the higher-concentration products, often the dose is a matter of drops. Read the recommended dose on the bottle per your pet's body weight, and start with a slightly lower dose, as some pets are more sensitive to it than others.

If it's not having the desired affect after about a half-hour, you can give a few drops more.

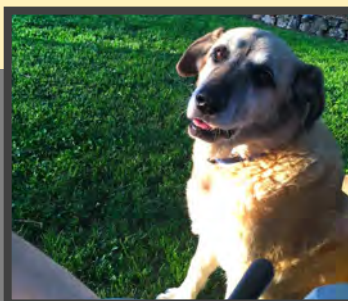
Overdosing is actually counterproductive. Niyol acts paranoid when he's had too much CBD.

Another drawback to CBD is that it's expensive. A one-month supply is over \$80. There are cheaper products that are also natural that may be worth trying first.

"Calming treats" that have chamomile and melatonin are a first line of defense with many fosters, and most dogs like the taste. Rescue Remedy, which has been on the shelves for ages, works well and quickly.

In severe cases of anxiety, there are medications your vet can prescribe. These do not work right away ... they are cumulative and must be taken for several weeks before you'll see a difference. If you just want to conk out an anxious dog for a long car ride or a fireworks display, a few Benadryl ground up and sprinkled in his food do the trick — but again, don't overdo it. A large enough dose can be lethal.

As with children, any kind of anxiety medication should be a last resort. Sitting with your pet and gently stroking him, holding him and making sure he has a safe, snug place to hide out if he needs to — and keeping calm yourself! — all contribute to a secure, calm pet.



## For The Holidays

- **The 2019 calendars** are coming! Watch our website and Facebook page for updates!
- **T-shirts** are still available and a great way to both support and



advertise Blackhat!  
• **As you think about your end-of-year giving, remember all donations to Blackhat are tax-deductible.**



We have no building and no paid employees, so 100% goes to caring for the stray animals of the Navajo Reservation!

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

## Memoriums

**Bailey** – "We honor the passing of the sweetest, most loyal companion in the world – Bailey. He lived under a bush in Crownpoint, NM, until our hearts met and he became part of our family. He

was comfort and joy, and companionship and love. He was Rez Dog extraordinaire." Bailey is very missed by former Blackhat treasurer Jacque Patterson and former Blackhat president Ben Peacock.

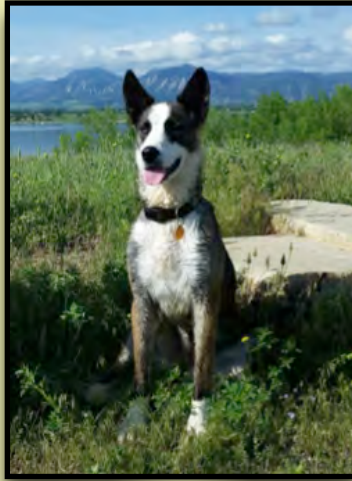
**Smokey** - A rez dog that Blackhat rescued who lived a very happy life with his human, Bennett Lerner.

## A Hidden Gem

On Jan. 30, I came home to a dog lying by a tree outside my apartment. I approached her and realized we had a problem. She had 4 different holes in her.

One looked like it might have pierced internal organs, another was about the dimensions of half a tennis ball and a literal pool of blood. You could see the bone on her right elbow. I frantically tried to contact animal control and the local vet tech to get someone to put the dog out of its misery. As it turned out, I was lucky that neither had the means/time to do so.

After deliberation and some advice from a friend in vet school, we decided to try to save her. With the help of my uncle, we rushed her to an emergency vet almost 90 miles away. I was skeptical that she would even survive the trip, but when we arrived the vets seemed confident that she would make it. She underwent surgery to clean and suture her wounds and came home with me as a Blackhat foster. We deemed her Bullet, since at first I thought she was shot (though it was probably a car or dog bites).



After many weeks of recovery, she was ready to be spayed and adopted out. Of course, after all that we went through I couldn't let her go. She became my first foster fail and was re-named Ruby in honor of the illustrious Dr. Ruby, the first person to help me save a rez dog.

Ruby (aka Boopy, aka Rooby Rooby Roo) has proven to be an amazing dog and is incredibly sweet, loyal, and playful on top of her incredible resilience. She charms everyone she meets.

It was a team effort, but she has made a full recovery. I am incredibly grateful to the vets, family, and Blackhat supporters for their help in saving her life.

It's hard to believe that this ball of fluff currently begging for belly rubs after hours of running and playing was so close to death when we met. I don't know how she knew to find me, but I am so glad she did.

— Sarah Groenwald, Blackhat Foster Coordinator

## The Numbers

Between July-September 2018, BHS:

- Placed **56** animals in forever homes, and transferred **20** to partner rescues.
- Spent **\$3,100.00** on foster and community support.
- Spent **\$10,798.00** on vet treatment and meds.
- Has **51** dogs, pups, cats, & kits currently in foster homes waiting for their forever homes.

## Ahéhee'

AZ Alpha Beta, Nuzzles & Co, Paw Creek Training, RezDawg Rescue, K. Arrington, S. Beggs & SARC, I Coleman, J&C Enns, L&G Graham, A&E Hardin-Burrola, J Hoit, R. Kordoski, J. Jim, N. Shinn, B&K Meier, J. Miller, M. Mitchell, J Price, R. Meier, RH Sherwin, T. Tyree, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.

Blackhat Humane Society

October 2018

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