



# WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

“Diné Bikéyah bikáá’góó, ahil neilnishgo lééchqá’í dóó mósí baa’ ádahwilyáago”

Email: [blackhathumane@gmail.com](mailto:blackhathumane@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: Blackhat Humane Society

## From her teacherage

that bordered a large open area in Ganado, Lavonne Juhl watched “Mama” for five years with a mixture of respect and pity. The wily stray shepherd mix confounded Animal Control’s repeated attempts to capture her. She snuck into Lavonne’s yard to lap the water and grab a mouthful of the food Lavonne put out for her, but never let herself be touched. “She always had an entourage,” Lavonne recalled. “She was like Marilyn Monroe. As soon as Animal Control caught her suitors, more would appear.”

For most of the year, Mama was proud to be feral and free, leading her pack of admirers, looking at the tame dogs in the teacher compound with obvious disdain. But then she would go into heat. “She was knocked-up by every male dog in the neighborhood,” Lavonne said. “She would creep around, looking exhausted, ragged and pathetic. She must have had 50 puppies over the years. I took a lot of them and found them homes.”

This year, the cycle ended. It was a warm fall day and Lavonne had her back door open. She had a bowl of dog food in the hall she was going to put out for Mama and her current suitor, a handsome red dog she was calling Loki, who was also Mama’s grandson. All of a sudden, Loki crept in to get to the food. Not to be outdone, Mama pushed past him. While the dogs were distracted by the food, Lavonne slammed the back door shut, trapping them inside her house. “It was one of those split-second decisions you make, knowing you’ll never get the chance again,” Lavonne recalled.

Lavonne called her friend Tjasa Vesel-Ames, who had recently become a Blackhat foster. Tjasa helped Lavonne drug the dogs with Benadryl and get them into crates while Lavonne called the shelter in Flagstaff and begged them to stay open long enough to intake the dogs so they could get fixed. The shelter agreed, but

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE DOG AT A TIME



said they couldn’t keep them. Lavonne would have to take them back after their operations. Lavonne signed up as a Blackhat foster so she could foster Loki and Mama, but Mama made it clear she was not ready to be a tame dog. So far she is sleeping in a doghouse in Lavonne’s yard and eating her food, and will greet her when she comes home from work ... that’s as far as she will go. Meanwhile, the tame dog life was winning Loki over, and he was recently adopted by a woman in Santa Fe who adores him.

But that’s not the end of this story. Lavonne and Tjasa continue to capture members of Mama’s pack. “Piggy,” the other constantly pregnant female, is now Peggy Sue and lives with a nice family in Durango. The nervous Wi-Fi is with Susan in Ramah, and Nakoa, the tamest of the pack, was recently adopted from there. A puppy that was running with them is now being fostered by Tjasa. Within less than two months, two women working together were able to bust up a pack of feral dogs that had been roaming the teacher housing for years, reproducing uncontrolled, hungry and cold, and make them into beloved pets.

Lavonne and Tjasa credit teamwork, and the fact that Blackhat had their back. “Once I learned that I wasn’t alone, that there was an organization that could provide support and resources for me to help these dogs, that was a turning point for me,” Lavonne said. She still has a goal of taming Mama, but even if that doesn’t happen, “she has a warm place to sleep, and she doesn’t have to worry about being knocked-up and having puppies every year,” Lavonne said. “My neighbors agree it’s been a lot quieter around the neighborhood since we got her fixed.”

## COVID Christmas Shopping?

You can purchase 2021 **calendars** and both long and short sleeved **T shirts** from our web site [www.blackhathumanesociety.org](http://www.blackhathumanesociety.org). Prices include shipping and handling, but supplies are limited, so check sizes.



All **donations** to Blackhat Humane Society are tax deductible. BHS is a registered 501c3. In 2020, the CARES Act allows you to make a **special \$300.00 "above the line" deduction** for monetary donations to a registered non-profit. **This means you can take the deduction even if you don’t itemize but take the standard deduction on your taxes !**

If you would like to donate for someone’s Christmas gift, we can send them a card as well.



2021 Dogs of the Navajo

# PUPPY LEGS

In the second half of November, Blackhat took in three pups from three different locations that all had leg injuries. Little Stumpy was found with a severed paw. Just days ago she had her leg amputated after a few weeks of gaining weight. Both Miller and Kobe were diagnosed with double fractures in their hind legs. The fractures were new enough that the vets were able to splint the legs. On top, just a few days after Kobe was treated, he broke with Parvo virus! We are happy to report that Kobe survived due to the quick response of his foster provider, and all three of these pups are happy, and healthy. Stumpy even has a forever home lined up with a previous BHS special needs pup adopter. Kobe and Miller are taking applications while healing. Huge thanks to all who donated for their care!



1,800  
POUNDS OF  
DOG FOOD TO  
LEUPP



COVID numbers are spiking on the Navajo reservation, and we are still trying to help out as many communities as we can with dog food for homebound elders and quarantining families. In November, our partner rescue Pets Return Home in Clarkdale, Arizona, donated 1,800 pounds of pet food! Volunteer driver Ezra Gould drove from Flagstaff to Clarkdale to retrieve the food, then delivered it to Leupp Chapter on the western side of the rez.

Leupp Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Calvin Johnson said the food will be put to good use.

"We have over 800 families with elderly members who should be staying home," he said, "and almost all of them have sheepdogs, so we can really use this."

## The Numbers

- Between Aug & Dec 2020, BHS:
- Placed **75** animals in forever homes, and transferred **18** to partner rescues.
  - Spent **\$6182.00** on foster and community support.
  - Spent **\$17,509.00** on vet treatment and meds.
  - Spent **\$1117.00** on partner and community support

## Ahéhee'

**Thank yous:** 4 Corners MASH, Continental Animal Wellness, Montezuma Veterinary, Kaibab Veterinary, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary, Four Corners Expos, Andrew McGregor, Eileen Caryl, L. Gilbert, L&G Graham, E. Harrington, J. Jim, L Magruder, R&KMeier, J. Price, L. Reed, R. Sherwin, T Sharp, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.

### Fall Donation Drive



Many thanks to Cindy Fisher with Four Corners Expos out of Durango, for selecting Blackhat

Humane as recipient of a fall pet food/supply donation drive. We received much needed dog food/leashes/toys/dog beds as well as 3 dog houses. Thanks to the contributors, the Durango Herald & Cortez Journal for being drop off locations, and Pet Haus and Creature Comforts in Durango who also served as collection spots and generously donated supplies as well.

Blackhat Humane Society

Winter 2020

P.O. Box 3123  
Durango, CO  
81302

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

First Last  
4321 First Street  
Anytown, State ZIP

