



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

"Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó, ahil neilnishgo léechqá'í dóó mósí baa' ádahwilyáago"

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Buttercup Worked Some Magic



Buttercup's story with us has a very happy ending and a wonderful new beginning for her. I've been walking my foster Buttercup each morning in Cortez park. On our 5th walk, Traci, a young grandma and her two grandsons (who are homeschooled by Traci) were walking / scooting.

When they saw us they stopped and asked if they could pet her. Traci and I chatted while the boys loved her up and she soaked it in. I told them my role, about Blackhat, and what I'm learning about the need. The boys wanted Buttercup right away but Traci said they needed to check with Grandpa and she wasn't sure if he'd agree. The next day an application came in from Traci.

The plot twist is that I'd also arranged a meet & greet with an interested neighbor in our subdivision who was looking for

a 4th dog a playmate for her 1 yr old male heeler mix, as her other two are older girls didn't want to be bothered. Gwen fell in love with Buttercup but wanted her to meet her boy, Moose. Trust me, the name is apropos. He was at least twice the size of little Miss Buttercup and sweet as can be. Things went well until he started to get frisky. She wanted nothing to do with. We decided to try again at Gwen's place the next day to meet the whole clan. I let Traci know that another family was also very interested and that I should know the outcome within a day or two. We all slept on it, everyone wanting only the best for Buttercup.



Buttercup kisses Hudson who loves animals and says he understands what animals are trying to say.

By morning an email arrived from Grandpa asking me to call as soon as possible. He said "Traci is smitten, would you let the other family know how much we want her." I called Gwen who was in fact feeling uneasy about the fit, that the size difference seemed problematic. Now Gwen already has her eye on another Blackhat foster. Win win! ~ S. Peuschel



Dogs of the Navajo

The 2023 Blackhat calendar is at the printer's now, and will be released in October 2022. You'll be able to purchase it through our website:

BlackhatHumaneSociety.Org There were great submissions again this year, and it was so hard to choose. All submissions' photos are featured on the cover collage.

Ahehee' Thank you!

4 Corners MASH, Airport Animal, Cedar Animal Medical, Continental Animal Wellness, Kaibab Vet, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Rez Solutions, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, S. Alden, K. Arrington, K. Ashcraft, O. Bortfeld, P. Giordano, C. Greiner, N. Hager, J. Jim, M&J Krumdick, A. O'Leary, Pfothauer, Price, L. Reed, Dr Ross family, R. Sherwin, N. Shinn, P. Simonson, D. Wren, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, trans-ported or contributed in any way.

The Money

For June - August 2022:
\$13,005 spent on veterinary services
\$ 8,677 spent on foster dog support/supplies
\$1667 spent on transport
\$1000 spent on community service

The Numbers

For June - August 2022:
36 new dogs/cats taken into foster care
46 adopted
6 to partner rescues
43 in foster care looking for their forever homes

Honorarium



B. Kaye "In memory of our sweet dog Shasta who passed away 7/11/2022. The best dog ever! She's in dog heaven eating blueberry muffins! And in-memory of Uzuri, my cousin's wonderful cat."

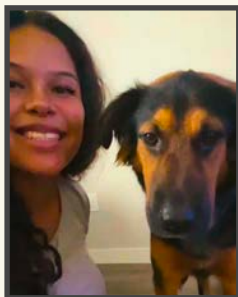
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To: Friends of Blackhat Humane Society



B L A C K H A T H U M A N E S O C I E T Y

For decades now, rescue on the reservation has largely been the province of non-Natives who come to the Navajo Nation to work and are disturbed by the number and condition of the stray animals. In recent years, the number of Diné foster providers has increased, and now there are starting to be Navajo adopters.



Navajo Adopters: Busting a Stigma

there are also a lot of people in the community who know how to treat a dog properly and give it the care it needs, and they deserve a chance.”

While there are dozens of stray dogs wandering around Chinle, where Brittany was living when she adopted Lilly, she said she didn't want to just pluck a random dog from a parking lot. “I felt a little more confident knowing the dog had been given its shots and fixed, and lived with someone for a while.” Deanna, who is also Navajo, admitted she had to consider her own biases to give Brittany a chance. “When you're raised here (in Chinle), based on what you see, you learn not to trust people,” she admitted.

But after communicating with Brittany and meeting her in person, Deanna concluded that Brittany was the perfect fit for Lilly. “Brittany could have adopted a dog from another rescue, but she really wanted to help the Rez dogs.”

Another barrier to adopting out dogs to Navajos is the traditional belief still held by some, that one shouldn't pay money for a dog. “I respect people who believe that,” said Deanna. “I tell them, ‘OK, then rescue one off the street yourself.’” Most Navajos, she said, understand that paying an adoption fee is not buying a dog, but rather partially reimbursing the rescue for its vetting, food and care.

A prominent Navajo medicine man, it should be noted, has adopted two Blackhat dogs, and did not flinch at the fee.

There's another reason foster providers should consider adopting out their pets to Navajo families. “I really hope that people on the Rez are starting to see the (stray dog) problem and want to do something about it,” said Deanna. “Eventually we need to help ourselves.”

As for Lilly and Brittany, they're still in love a year later. “I've had lots of dogs,” said Brittany, “and this dog is amazing.” In fact, she's considering adopting another Blackhat dog. “Definitely, my next dog will also be a Rez dog,” she declared. ~ C. Yurth