



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

“Working together to improve the welfare of reservation dogs and cats”
“Diné Bikéyah bikáá’góó, ahít neilnishgo lééchaq’í dóó mósí baa’ ádahwilyáago”

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A More Inclusive Look For The Calendar



The 2022 Blackhat calendar, which we hope to have out by the end of September, has everything you’ve come to expect in our calendar: Federal and Navajo Nation holidays, moon phases, Navajo names for the months and days.

But there’s something different, and you’ll notice it quickly. For the past 12 years it’s been in existence, we have featured the very best shot among our 12 calendar pets for the cover. Our new calendar designer, Christine S. had another idea. So many people sent in pictures of their obviously well loved Blackhat pets, so it was like all your neighbors bringing their children over and asking you to declare which one was the cutest.

So this year, in addition to the pets representing each month — Yuki, Mali, Bear, Willow and Bailey, Polly, Chaco, Ellie, Sage, Maggie, Bentley, Teddi, and Toffee and Boudreaux — the 37 pets who didn’t make the cut are part of a collage on the cover!

“It makes me happy to see all those smiling doggie faces (and a grumpy cat),” Christine emailed in explaining her choice. “Maybe everyone who submitted a picture will buy a calendar!”

We love it too. The behind-the-scenes world of rescue is fraught with injuries and diseases most people have never heard of, ticks and mange, hard-to-catch ferals and cowering refugees from abuse. These photos of happy, healthy rez dogs living enviable lives all over the country reminds us why we do what we do.

We are using a local Four Corners printer for the first time. We’re happy to support a local business while eliminating the energy-consuming cross-country shipping. The calendar will be available through our website or from any board member. Happy faces await!

Getting A Fix On The Problem

There is little doubt that the animal overpopulation problem on the Navajo Nation will never be resolved until all pet owners have access to affordable sterilization.

For several years, Blackhat helped sponsor Denver-based Soul Dog Rescue’s clinics in Chinle, but as volunteers moved away we had to phase those out. Our volunteers have continued to help out with clinics in their areas.

Fortunately several other organizations recently have been offering free or low-cost spay-neuter clinics across the reservation. When Underdog Rehab and Rescue out of Moab, Utah, approached us about funding a clinic contracted with The Parker Project, we stepped up.

Blackhat is covering the entire cost of the clinic, which will be Sept. 17-19 in Sheep Springs, New Mexico, and will be supplying the volunteers (more are needed!)

The clinic quickly filled for spay/neuter-but drive-through vaccinations are still being offered. This is a huge plus for folks in that area who are far from veterinary care or can’t afford it.



Volunteers, including Blackhat board member Maureen, far left, pose after a recent spay-neuter clinic in Kayenta. The clinic was a collaboration between Soul Dog Rescue (Denver) and Nuzzles & Co. (Salt Lake City). The two groups are starting a permanent low-cost clinic at the former animal shelter in Kayenta.

If you live in the Four Corners, please consider donating a few hours or a day to sit with animals recovering from anesthesia, clean crates or help with intake. It’s a rewarding experience and you will help make a difference. If you live far away but would still like to help, consider donating \$40 through our website. That’s the cost to spay one dog there.

Email blackhathumane@gmail.com if you’re interested in volunteering or want to learn more.

MEMORIUMS

Lillie Hager Loomie
An amazing BHS dog adopted in 2013

Hattie Bear
A BHS dog who graced her family with her presence for 13 years

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

Double Date

On Valentines day I drove away from a spay / neuter clinic in Rock Point Arizona, my home town, with a big 83 pound handsome boy. I named him Vinny and promised to find him a good home. Since Vinny was cute, active, and friendly, I knew he would be snatched up back in Colorado where I now live.

I took him through the BHS vetting process, then listed him on a few internet adoption sites, and posted many cute photos on my facebook page. But so surprisingly, no one bit!

We guessed it was perhaps his size, or the fact many people had already swept up a dog for company during pandemic lockdowns.

No matter, Vinny was really fun to have around. On a weekend in March, a friend was traveling to camp a few hours away in Utah. My 2 dogs, Vinny and I loaded up to go join the fun.

On the date of our return, I detoured through a drive-up clinic for my second COVID19 vaccine. Sasha, the visiting EMT who administered my shot commented on how fun it was to see so many dogs. I sensed an opening, and went in for the big sell. I



introduced Vinny and watched her eyes widen. Before we drove away, I made sure she could give Vinny a snuggle, and had all his beta.

A few days later I received Sasha's application to adopt Vinny. She and her boyfriend had discussed it and felt strongly that Vinny was a match. There were two kids age 5 and 6 in the household, and one dog - a tiny Bichon. It would be at least three weeks before they could drive up from Phoenix.

I was a bit taken aback both with her confidence and commitment to Vinny, but also with some red flags. A hot, big city for an active dog with a thick coat? A tiny older dog and little kids with Vinny who doesn't yet understand his size?

My reply was nice, but I declined to promise to "hold" Vinny. I asked questions about the concerns, and waited for a reply. Sasha emailed back with very thoughtful answers, and confirmed the plans to come for Vinny in April.

Well, everything seems to have worked out perfectly for Vinny. "Vinny's been amazing! He fits in so well! We can't help but love his personality. He really enjoys hearing and chasing after the morning birds on our morning walks. It's honestly the cutest thing," Sasha recently reported. Vinny is buds with the Bichon. Sasha's niece, Mila, and Vinny are just the best of friends, always playing and often falling asleep together on the couch. Sasha recently texted "He loves to cuddle and has been by my side the last few days when I haven't been feeling well. He's very Intuitive!" I'll add so is Sasha!

— Linda R.

The Numbers

For June - Aug 2021

\$26,223.00 spent on veterinary services
\$10,548.00 spent on foster animal support and supplies
73 animals taken into care
47 adoptions
10 transfers to partner rescues
46 animals in foster care as of 9/1

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Thank You's: 4 Corners MASH, Airport Animal, Dr. Burns, Canyon Pet Hosp, Cedar Animal, Continental Animal Wellness, Dogster's DSnip, Dolores animal Hosp, Durango Animal Hosp, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Pets Return Home, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, F. Bennet, B. Carll, B. Coyne, J. Evans, P. Giordano, S&B Hill, J. Jim, L. Magruder, D. Marino, K. Parr, N. Shinn, K. Palombo, N. Platzer, J. Price, L. Reed, G. Sawaya, R. Sherwin, C. Stoeffler, W. Znidaric, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.