



# SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

"Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó, ahil neilnshgo tééchaq'í dóó mósí baa' ádahwiiláago"

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

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

Facebook: [Blackhat Humane Society](https://www.facebook.com/BlackhatHumaneSociety)

## Three Cheers for ALL the Volunteers

Last weekend my wife asked if I would like to travel with her on a Blackhat transfer. A beautiful spring day was before us and we left Chinle a little after 7:30 am to travel north three plus hours through the two corners of the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and Utah, leaving the "rez", passing through Bluff, Blanding and Moab, Utah upon the way.



Cindy, Ruby and Sarah take a family walk with the dogs at the Topaz historic site north of Moab, Utah

to impossible without the help of probably the most important volunteers — the pets of the Blackhat volunteers.

Every Blackhat volunteer is a hero, but at least half of them are the pets (most of them BHS alumni themselves) of the volunteers. In this transfer Ruby was a champion, taking the lead on the walk and letting the fosters know "it's ok, you're with us now".

The volunteers might post dogs on the Blackhat website, vaccinate and take them to the vet, create pet records and feed them, teach them to

"sit", walk on a leash, ride in a car... and more. But in my mind, all of this work to help these dogs would be a catastrophe without the role modeling of the dogs. As a teacher I have learned the students learn as much from the other students as they ever do from me. I value this team work as it builds a strong community.

So I want to say "hip hip hooray" to the unsung heroes of Blackhat: Ruby, Sandy, Loki and Lita, Dezhi, Maureen's pack and every volunteer's dog who helps the strays learn to be pets. My gratitude for the work of all Blackhat volunteers is beyond words, especially for the pets — We love you all!

- Erik Swanson

We met Sarah and Ruby at the Topaz historical site to hand off two Blackhat fosters, Bunny the "ever ready energizer" bunny and Jocelyn the sweet and kind elder heading to her forever home. Sarah and Ruby had traveled south at least as far as we traveled north to transfer Bunny and Jocelyn to their next homes.

The trauma felt by foster dogs is always interesting to me. Being the husband of a volunteer I have seen and helped hundreds of lost dogs in different stages of life and health, both mental and physical. Yet it seems to me, that as important as finding a home for these dogs is — it would be next

## Road warrior strikes again!

In addition to transporting dogs across northern Arizona, our transport volunteer Ezra Gould made sure dogs in remote regions of Western Navajo got a meal! When Pets Return Home couldn't pick up its donation of dog food from the Purina factory in Flagstaff, Ezra sprang into action and made not one but two long, dusty trips in his trusty pickup to silver two pallets each to a cluster of sheep camps in Bodaway/Gap and the Western Navajo fairgrounds, whence it will be distributed to needy families by Tuba City Humane Society. "I'm so happy to think of the happy food dance all the dogs will be able to do now," said Ezra.



## All in the Family

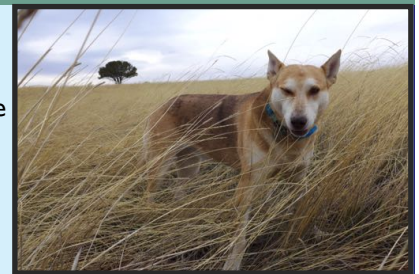
Curious to see what the 10 pups her foster dog, Maggie, had while in her care are like now, foster mom Diane Zahorodny invited all their adopters, and Maggie's, to her place for a 1-year family reunion in May! Five showed up, all of whom had gotten much bigger than their mother! "I think (Maggie) was happy!" said



Diane. "It seemed like some of the puppies recognized her. They all played and played. Such a great time."

## Calling All Calendar Candidates!

We're collecting photos and bios for our 2022 calendar! If you're proud of your Blackhat pet and a good photographer, send a high resolution photo and a little blurb about his or her history or personality to [blackhatcalendar@outlook.com](mailto:blackhatcalendar@outlook.com). Seasonal photos (with snow, autumn leaves, etc.) are preferred. If your pet is selected for the calendar, you will get a free copy! Plus all the bragging rights you can handle.



**Azul** had been wandering Ft Defiance for quite a while. Luckily, she was caught and transferred to a foster home where she had 10 (!) puppies within 2 days. Guess she was just waiting until she felt safe.

**Holiday**, the dog who went through major reconstructive surgery for his mangled leg, finished up a month of physical therapy - swimming and an underwater treadmill, and had a meet and greet with potential adopters. He was so happy and energetic that they thought he was a little too energetic. They had followed his story from the beginning and donated to his medical care and really wanted to give him a chance, According to foster Kim, "I thought he would settle down once he got used to a new situation and looks like I was right. Great lesson in not judging a foster or shelter dog in the first 30 minutes after you meet him. I miss him terribly but he's where he needs to be, he gets to live with a former Blackhat alum and is now named Buddy, a new name for the next and best chapter of his life."



P.O. Box 3123  
Durango, CO  
81302  
www.blackhathumanesociety.org

First Last  
4321 First Street  
Anytown, State ZIP



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

## Wifi zeros in on a HOME!

WiFi was the most skittish member of the feral pack Lavonne has been working with on the Ganado school campus. She finally managed to catch him in October 2020 and Susan M. agreed to take him in and work with him. We thought he would tame up quickly as he didn't seem to mind being around humans as long as they didn't touch him.

But WiFi was a tough nut to crack. Amanda, a trainer who has worked with Susan's fosters, offered to take him in for residential training at a reduced rate and see if we could at least get him to go in and out of a



crate so he could go to vet appointments. She was making slow but sure progress with him until one day when, as Susan put it, he escaped from his kennel and "took his life into his own paws."

In May 2021, WiFi ended up following a family who was walking their two dogs and, wonder of wonders, walked into their house! They liked him and agreed to keep him, with continued coaching from Amanda. Amanda and Susan split his adoption fee and paid it for the good-hearted family. Thanks to Lavonne, Susan and Amanda for this amazing rescue!

## The Numbers



For March - May 2021

**\$16,223.00** spent on foster animal veterinary services  
**\$9,991.00** spent on foster animal support and supplies  
**76** animals taken into care  
**58** adoptions  
**10** transfers to partner rescues  
**42** animals in foster care as of 6/1

## Ahéhee'

**Thank You:** 4 Corners MASH, Dr. Burns, Continental Animal Wellness, Durango Animal Hospital, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Pets Return Home, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, L. Anastasi, K Arrington, T. Bevers, E. Brahm, L. Burke, B. Carrow, L&D Close, C. Eastin III, W&C Foote, E. Foster, E. Gould, N. Hager, J. Hoit, D. Lee, S. Owen, J. Patterson, B. Peacock, J. Price, L. Reed, B. Selig, R. Sherwin, A. Thomas, P. Tyra, P. Walker, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.