



# WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

"Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó, ahít neilnishgo lééchqá'í dóó mósí baa' ádahwiilyáago"

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## Ahbi's Story: An Ode to Adopters

Do we honor our adopters enough? I think not. These humans who open their hearts and homes to a new creature they know little about, are vital to our organization. Most often we cannot tell what breed of dog they are adopting, or how big they will be fully grown. We do know that our adopters are taking a chance on forever love, and we want to help.

The 3/3/3 framework is a good one, and has proven to be helpful for new owners. Three days, three weeks, and three months. For the first 3 days, realize that everything is brand new for this dog. It is likely they were born and lived outdoors. Almost nothing is like what they learned about so far, and they may feel overwhelmed.

In 3 weeks, they will begin to understand about a home and their place in it with a family, people, and other animals.



### IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY.

3 DAYS	3 WEEKS	3 MONTHS
<p><b>TO DECOMPRESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FEELING OVERWHELMED</li> <li>● MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON</li> <li>● NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE "HIMSELF"</li> <li>● MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK</li> <li>● SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE</li> <li>● TESTS THE BOUNDARIES</li> </ul>	<p><b>TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STARTS SETTLING IN</li> <li>● FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE</li> <li>● REALIZES THIS COULD BE HIS FOREVER HOME</li> <li>● FIGURES OUT HIS ENVIRONMENT</li> <li>● GETS INTO A ROUTINE</li> <li>● LETS HIS GUARD DOWN, MAY BEGIN TO SHOW HIS TRUE PERSONALITY</li> <li>● BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR</li> </ul>	<p><b>TO START TO FEEL AT HOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS HOME</li> <li>● BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND</li> <li>● GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY</li> <li>● SETS INTO A ROUTINE</li> </ul>

In 3 months, your dog is comfortable with your routine and is part of your pack. Remember these are just guidelines, some dogs adjust much quicker, others need more time.

An adopter sent BH a journal of their dog's journey. Abhi was a very shy little pup, so her adopters knew it would take time for her to adjust to her new home. Here are some excerpts from Abhi's Journey.

"We had a very rough go the first day – she had a very long car ride, she had no idea what was happening and she was severely heartbroken from being taken away from her foster family. It was very emotional for all of us. She did not know who we were or why she was here. Abhi would not stop trembling. Her quiet little whines were breaking our heart.

*continued on p. 2*

# Ahbi's Story continued from p. 1



Abhi (on right) with her new sweet brother Mijo

Fortunately Mijo, Abhi's new brother – is such a kind and loving soul, that Abhi immediately knew that she was safe with him. He shined like a super star and became even more amazing than he already was (who knew that could even be possible) and we watched in awe as he helped Abhi feel comfortable.

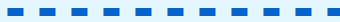
By day three she started to calm down a little bit. She started playing with Mijo, and she discovered the cat. We let them have their space to work it out and now they are pals.

Week Two – Abhi was still very skittish and would only go outside while following Mijo, but learned if she didn't come back inside with him she had to stay outside alone. We tried some "forced affection" it took her about 2 hours to finally stop shaking and relax ... but, she did – she even started licking our hands. Abhi became surprisingly affectionate – there is no better

way to wake up than with lots and lots of puppy love welcoming you to a new day. We tried going for a walk around the neighborhood – we were beyond impressed that she was very affectionate with our neighbors.

Week three - Now we are settling into a routine, and every day lil Ms. Abhi brings more and more love and joy to our family. The more comfortable she gets, the better she is at teaching us her ways.

We are so very grateful for the way Abhi has enriched our lives. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to let her choose us. We aren't quite there yet, but we are making great strides."



When you adopt, please give your new friend some extra time. Very slowly expose your dog to new things and new people. The early days are not the time to drag them around to all your favorite loud and chaotic places. We could not do our work without you. We promise to share all that we know about the little monster before you take it home. We can share resources with you. We can share our own experiences, while noting that no two dogs are alike. And we cannot thank you enough.

- Donna Fitzpatrick,  
BHS Foster Volunteer

## Memoriums

◆ From Michelle Raby  
In honor of **Shadow**

◆ From Tom Doody in memory of **Shellie**,  
2007-2021  
"Your saving her and giving her a new lease on life made our lives so much better over the last 14 yrs. She was the best and will be missed by so many who knew and loved her."



## Numbers

Sept. - Nov. 2021

- 73 animals taken into foster care
- 53 pets adopted into forever homes
- 4 dogs transferred to partner rescues
- 80 dogs/cats in foster care looking for their forever homes as of Dec. 1st
- \$14,550.00 spent on veterinary services;
- \$11,638.00 spent on foster dog support / supplies;
- \$210.00 spent on community service

## Ahéhee'

4 Corners MASH, Airport Animal, Dr. Burns, Cedar Animal, Continental Animal Wellness, Dogster's DSnip, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Nav Nation Veterinary Services, Pets Return Home, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, K. Arrington, C. Assink, L. Gilbert, e. Harrington, J. Jim, JG& K Kronenberg, D. Marino, K. Parr, N. Shinn, M. Pfothenauer, J. Price, L. Reed, R. Sherwin, T. Sharp, D.Wren, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, prayed, transported or contributed in any way.



## Blackhat Adoptee Soothes Frazzled Flyers



After the heartbreak of losing three elderly pets in one year, Misty of Orange, California, was ready to welcome a new family member, and she knew where he or she was coming from. While living in Colorado, her daughter Kayleigh had fostered and transported for Blackhat.



“All the Blackhat dogs we came in contact with were great dogs,” said Misty. Misty asked her daughter’s friend, Sarah, who was still fostering, to look for “a dog

who’s friendly to everyone.” Misty was a volunteer with OC Animal Allies, which trains people to train their dogs as therapy animals and contracts with hospitals, nursing homes, etc. for pet therapy. She was looking for a dog she could train to help others.

It took a couple of months, but then Sage showed up at Sarah’s home as a Blackhat foster. Looking like a miniature German shepherd, Sage was the Will Rogers of dogs. She never met a person or animal she didn’t like.

Sage took to the therapy training easily, and before long she and Misty were deployed to a new program at the John Wayne Airport in Orange County called

AirPAWS. The pair would roam the corridors in search of people who looked like they could use some canine cuddles. Folks who are stressed out over missing a flight

or weary after a cross-country excursion light up when they see Sage’s cheerful little face. “But you know who really likes her?” asked Misty. “The TSA people. They have



a stressful job.” Sage lets everybody pet her, but every day she picks out a few favorites. “There are four or five people who, when she sees them, she just plops down and offers them her belly to rub,” Misty said. “I don’t know if she can tell they really need that, or if she just decides she likes them.”

Not only is Sage a great therapy dog, she’s an excellent recruiter. Impressed with Misty’s training skills and dedication, OC Animal Allies recently offered her a paying job.

“So I get to do what I was already doing and get paid for it,” said Misty. “How cool is that?” Normally there’s no sign of Sage’s tough past life as a struggling reservation stray, but occasionally it shines through.

“I think she was a gas station dog, because the only time she begs is when she smells Subway,” said Misty. “It’s like it triggers something in her.” - Cindy Yurth, BHS President

### Yes, Your Foster is Tax-Deductible

Did you know your **fostering expenses** are tax-deductible? Yes, you can claim dog food, medicine, vet bills (if there are any Blackhat didn’t pay), crates, even blankets and garbage bags! Blackhat is an IRS-recognized 501(c)3 non-profit, so all your expenses associated with fostering are considered contributions. So save those receipts!



### As is your Donation to Blackhat

All **donations** to Blackhat Humane Society are tax deductible. BHS is a registered 501c3 non-profit with the IRS.

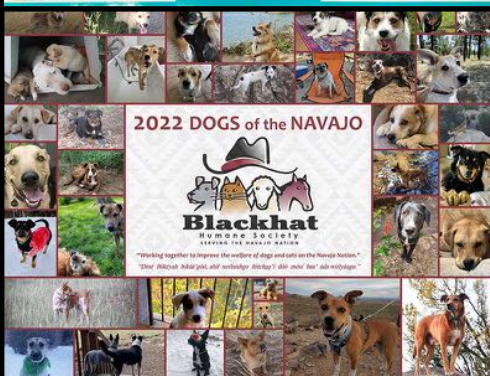
If you would like to donate for someone’s Christmas gift, we can send them a card as well. It’s a great time to make your gift!

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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



## Rezzed-Out Gifts ★ ★ ★

The holidays are fast approaching, and while supply-chain problems continue to plague the box stores, we at Blackhat Humane Society are well stocked with perfect gifts for the animal lovers on your list! Check out our gorgeous 2022 Dogs of the Navajo calendar — with a substantial discount if you purchase 8 — and our brand new line of T-shirts, including a 100 percent cotton unisex style, a new ladies' fitted V-neck T in warm grey, a long-sleeve model in heathered forest green, and a cozy new hoodie in heathered royal blue! For stocking stuffers, consider our cute “I brake for rez dogs” bumper stickers. All are available on our website. Just click on “Shop”!

