



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

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

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★ Unbroken Spirit ★

It happens at least once a day. Someone driving through the reservation reports a stray dog in bad shape at a gas station or grocery store, and calls us to pick it up.

We patiently explain that we are a foster-based organization and, until we can find a foster volunteer who is willing to take the dog in and care for it, we can't just come and whisk it away.



Sometimes, though, the stars align. Natalie of Albuquerque was driving on Highway 191 through Many Farms, Arizona on Oct. 18 when she noticed an emaciated dog who seemed to have no use of one of his hind legs. It would just drag when he walked.

She kept driving because she had no room to pick him up with her three kids in the car, but she couldn't get the poor creature out of her mind. She called us offering to pay for vet care if we could find someone to foster.

Frankly, we didn't hold out much hope. Our fosters were, as usual, all booked up with a waiting list of 16 animals. We put a call out for someone in the area to check out the situation. Long-time volunteer Vicky offered to take a look. She confirmed the dog was there, very skinny and horribly injured, and possibly too skittish to catch. She put out food and water.

Natalie, meanwhile, was beside herself with worry. As a busy working mom, she didn't think she could foster, but she decided it was better than waiting for someone else to step up.

After Natalie was registered as a foster mom, there was the not insignificant task of getting the unfortunate



canine from Many Farms to Albuquerque, a distance of 242 miles. Whoever transported would also have to catch the dog, which is not always easy and sometimes dangerous.

Meanwhile, Audra, a Navajo woman living in Fort Wingate, New Mexico, was having a bad day. Her social media had been commandeered by a hacker, and she was trying frantically to remedy the situation when she stumbled across Blackhat's plea for help on Facebook.

"I thought, 'Maybe a long drive and a good deed are just what I need to get my mind

off this,'" Audra recalled. She drove to Many Farms, picked up Scout and drove the whole way to Albuquerque.

Fast forward four months. Scout is now at a healthy weight and has had surgery on the leg. He can walk two times around the block before he gets tired.

He is ready to be adopted. And Natalie doesn't regret her decision.

"He's a good boy and definitely worth saving!" she said.

— C. Yurth

The Numbers	The Money
December - February 2023: 47 new dogs/cats taken into foster care 44 adopted 8 to partner rescues 59 in foster care looking for their forever homes	December - February 2023: \$10,249 spent on veterinary services \$ 7,861 spent on foster dog support / supplies \$3509 spent on transport \$867 spent on community service/ outreach

Memoriums

In memory of my sweet **Flossie** who died in November. She was the light of my life! She got me through a very tough time. I still miss my beloved Flossie. — Susan S. Stob

In memory of **Jack Rascal** who was among four dogs hanging around teacher housing in Chinle. All were rescued by Blackhat. He was my loyal and loving companion since I adopted him 12 years ago. I will miss him so but I think he had a fun and adventurous life. He traveled all over the western U.S. with me and went to beaches, forests, mountains and deserts. He got to be a resort town dog in Coronado many times. I love him so much. — Lisa Burke



Aheehé' Thank you!

Canyon Pet Hospital, Cedar Animal Medical, Continental Animal Wellness, Kaibab Vet, Montezuma Veterinary Clinic, Navajo Nation Veterinary Services, Rez Solutions, Dr. Sand, San Juan Veterinary Hospital, K. Arrington, O. Bortfeld, B. Carll, J. Deuby, L. Gilbert & T. Sharp, G & J Gipple, E. Harrington, BK Henderson, J & G Kimbrough, L. Magruder, R. Mogull, D. Paxton, H. Pranaat, L. Quinn, M&N Reuter, L. Reed, R. Sherwin, K&W Stevens, S. Stobb, K. Trottingwolf, and all who fostered, adopted, donated, transported, or contributed in any way.

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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



Patience Is Key When Introducing A Rez Dog To Your Home ~ Amanda Ballard



We all know that dogs & humans have different cultures, and very different languages. To take it a step further, Rez Dogs have a very different culture, and possibly a different dialect, than your average family dog. Sometimes those cultures can clash, resulting in a failed adoption/return.

Prior to being rescued, it's likely that your Rez Dog had to compete with other dogs (and wild animals) for food & water. Some behaviors are habits, or imprinted, if early experiences included posturing or fighting for these resources.

Do not expect dogs to share food or bones. Keep dogs separated for feeding time, treat time, and chew bone time. Keep your own food picked up.

Even the most dog-social stable dog can act out, or react to being bombarded by unexpected, rapid changes. All dogs need time to adjust to a ton of changes.

Many well-meaning adopters tend to want to introduce their new dog to all of their friends, and all other pets in the household immediately.

Imagine meeting 40 new coworkers, and being expected to remember each of their names, personality traits, birthdays, favorite foods, and how to live with several of them on your very first day of work. Overwhelming, right? But somehow, we mistakenly expect this much from our dogs...on their first day home.



Here are some simple things you can do to prevent overwhelming your newly adopted dog (or new foster):

Stick to a routine by establishing a potty, feeding, and training schedule. If you normally work certain days/hours, crate your dog during the times you'd normally be away.

Postpone introducing them to your resident animals and human friends for at least a week.

Skip out on taking them to pet friendly stores or outings, until Week 3, or later. The first 1-3 weeks after arrival should be boring for your new dog, and I mean really boring. A lot of quiet crate time can help them adapt to and process new sounds and scents, without becoming overwhelmed, or potentially reactive. Practice good reward-based potty training and chew toy training. Ask us if you need help. Take time to practice reward-based obedience exercises. Short 3-5 minute sessions, one on one with your new dog, 3 times daily, helps establish a trusting relationship between you two. This is vital to achieve before adding other animals to the mix.

The biggest failure by the human side of the adoption equation is expecting too much, too soon, from a dog who has just arrived in a brand new world. It can take 2-3 months for a newly adopted dog to begin to unpack, and to behave like themselves in a new home. Take things slow, including animal introductions, to prevent an avoidable culture clash.