



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

"Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó, ahil-neilnishgo léécha'a'i dóó mósí baa' ádahwiilyáago"

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Seren-pup-ity

*A tragedy leads to an
almost miraculous rehoming*

Dick Grossman does not believe in miracles. Or at least, he didn't until March 19.

"I'm still just amazed when I think about it," said the retired obstetrician from Durango.

Dick and his wife Gay had adopted Blackhat pup Finn about 5 years ago. The Grossmans were in their mid-70s at the time, and didn't want a big dog. His foster mom didn't think Finn would get over 40 pounds. But Finn grew and grew, and Dick and Gay weren't getting any younger. After Finn pulled Dick down during a walk, and a neighbor complained about his exuberant barking, Dick and Gay reluctantly made the decision to rehome him.

Dick contacted Blackhat president Cindy to see if Blackhat would take him back.

In the meantime, Maureen, who had fostered Finn's brother Georgie, got a

devastated phone call from Georgie's adopter, Cat. Georgie had gotten loose and been hit by a car and killed. Cat asked if Blackhat had any similar mixes available.

Maureen was able to tell her we not only had a similar mix, we had Georgie's full brother!

But the coincidences didn't stop there. Cat and her partner, Duncan, had been touring Chaco Canyon and were going to be in Farmington, just an hour from Durango, in two days. They were willing to meet Finn and take him on the spot if they liked him.

Dick was nervous. Finn generally took a while to warm up to new people.

"Duncan knew just what to do," he recalled. "He sat down in the grass and paid no attention to Finn. Finn walked right up to him." Finn and Duncan's dog Kylo hit it off immediately too.

In the next weird coincidence, Cat and Duncan announced they were moving from Taos back to Duncan's family's homestead in Ridgeway, Colo. — where Dick and Gay just happen to have a vacation cabin. The Grossmans were overjoyed that they would be able to visit their former pet.

Their first visit occurred about a month ago. Duncan brought Finn over to the Grossmans' cabin and they all went on a hike together. When it came time to say goodbye, Dick was afraid Finn wouldn't want to leave the familiar spot, but he had underestimated Finn's bond with his new owners.

"I said, 'Finn, go to Duncan,'" Dick recalled, "and he ran and jumped in Duncan's car."

"I don't believe in miracles," Dick stated, "but a miracle happened that day in March."



The Numbers

Jan. — April: 28 animals adopted; 9 transported to other rescues; 43 still in foster care as of May 1

The Money

Jan. — April: Vet \$13,308; Foster supplies \$12,468; Transport \$3,007; Community outreach and support \$3,314

Ahehee' Thank you!

Airport Animal Hospital,
Continental Animal
Wellness, Kaibab
Veterinary Clinic,
Montezuma Veterinary
Clinic, Nav Nation
Veterinary Services,
Prescott Animal Hospital,
Rez Solutions, San Juan
Veterinary Hospital, Dr.
Sand, Simply Diego's, S.
Alden, K. Arrington, K.
Ashcraft, P. Simonson, C.
& B. Brady, B. Coyne, Diane
Cummings, W. & C. Foote,
E. Greenfield, R. Koch, C.
Gonzales, C. Greiner, E.
& A. Hardin-Burrola, J.
Howard, J. Jim, N. Shinn, J.
Kimbrough, M & R
Kearney, L & M Krumdieck,
S. Leitner, M. Miller, J.
Myers, L. Reed, A. Seavall,
L. Smith, C. Starr, P.
Stovall, and all who
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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

Running for rez dogs: A win for everybody



Truthfully, there is not a huge overlap between animal rescue and athleticism. But when one of our younger members, Maureen, had a wild hair that Blackhat should sponsor a team for the Shiprock Half-Marathon, we threw our support behind her.

After some scrambling, we were able to field a not-half-bad team: Maureen, Alana (a fit IHS physical therapist), Alvina (a former Olympic running hopeful), Susan (our eldest but most enthusiastic member) and Deanna, a Chinle EMT.

As a “charity bib” team, the members were charged with raising \$500 each for Blackhat, a seemingly daunting task. But with our legendarily supportive donors,

we were able to raise the \$2,500 (plus \$200 more!) in about a week.

Then our plans came crashing down when, three days before the starting gun, Deanna found out she could not get time off from work to run the race.

I hit up every runner I knew from my days as a reporter for the Navajo Times, including legendary track coach Lenny Esson. Lenny had a conflict, but he offered up his 19-year-old son, Dathan.

With three days to train for his first competitive half-marathon, Dathan ended up winning handily with an astonishing time of 1:14, and the rest of our crew all finished and had a great time!

— Cindy Yurth

In Memoriam

In memory of our beloved Corgi/cattle dog, Sequoia. Thank you for rescuing her and all of the work, time, effort and love that you provided until we could bring her home.

— Paula Liermann

In memory of Luna.

— Lauren

In memory of Flower, a wonderful cat who we miss every day.

— B. Kaye

In memory of Liz and Dave's dog, Django.

— M&R Kearney