

RUFF Times

Volume II Issue 1

Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)

September 2012

Director's Message

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At Home, At Long Last

Charlie Brown and Chip, the teacup Chihuahuas from the Anza Gang Rescue came into the ARF house in April with 4 of their buddies. Patiently they watched as one by one, each disappeared through the door in the arms of a forever human. Soon they became the greeting committee to several new orphans, showing them the ropes, whose bed was whose, and where to hide the bones.

And saying goodbye became so easy.

When would it be their turn? And why hadn't they been scooped up to be cherished forever. They were waiting for the MAGIC! Charlie Brown watched for several days as Chip's very interested humans visited him. And then came Chip's own harness and tag, and Charlie knew he had lost another buddy.



But Charlie still twirled and danced at mealtime, and gave us the ole Charlie Brown smile, with one ear perked up.

Last week, we finally knew why Charlie was still here. The magic unfolded as if they had been waiting forever to meet. Her eyes lit up and she smiled as her trembling hands reached out to hold this precious tiny brown dog. Charlie looked at me with trusting eyes, and I assured him it was just fine. And he never left her arms. And as she stroked his fur and memorized every detail, she smiled and looked at peace.

Charlie Brown had found his home.

-Maria Lehman



Director of Operations: Maria Lehman

Treasurer: Mary Lou Prosin

Sadie's Clinic Director: Caryn Gilbert

A non-profit organization

P.O. Box 719, Idyllwild, CA 92549 (951) 659-1122

ARF House: 26890 Hwy 243, Idyllwild

arfidyllwild.weebly.com



Secretary: Janice Murasko

Education Director: Jacqueline Siff

Search & Rescue Director: Robert Hewitt



Mayor Max Muses

I want to thank all of you who have let me know that you plan to donate your time to ARF. If you haven't called ARF yet to schedule some time at the ARF office, please give us a call at 951-659-1122. Even two hours a week is a huge help, and we and our pets will be so excited to hear from you.

We are also continuing to fund-raise to accomplish our \$65,000 goal for the year. To help with continuing my contributions to ARF, I do two things: I continue to tell everyone I meet about ARF, and I let them know if they would like to contribute to the mayoral candidates and helping animals on the Hill, they can donate to ARF, and that even a dollar or two is very helpful and greatly appreciated. I then give them ARF's contact information, and I let them know as well that any donations they provide to me will be provided by me to ARF. The topic that Idyllwild elected a dog as a Mayor is one that is an easy door opener.

We have also started an ARF donation jar in our home to collect spare change and a few dollars that we may have in my pockets at the end of each day. (Our "jar" is actually one of our flower vases, it's very pretty.) Any money that lands in our jar is designated solely for ARF, and when it gets up a few inches in change and/or dollars, we schedule a stop by at ARF and hand it over.

You can stop by ARF at any time and drop off a dollar or two. Never underestimate the power of a few dollars a month toward ARF because every dollar contributes towards saving a life. If everyone participates even in a small way, we'll be able to save many more animals.

We appreciate your help and love you very much. We always look forward to seeing you.



MAYOR MAX

aka: Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller

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Newsflash:

ARF Funded to Prepare Pet Owners for Disasters

Just this week, ARF was honored with a grant from the ASPCA to train a certified PetTech CPR/first aid instructor for our residents and their animals. Once the trainer is certified in early December, classes will be offered to groups who might have a need for these skills in the course of their work on the hill, as well as to individuals who want to be prepared to help their own animals in an emergency. A full outline of ARF's disaster preparedness/evacuation plan for the community will appear in next month's newsletter. Anyone who would like to help with this plan or to find out more about it, please contact Shela Boynton at shelab@greencafe.com.



Sadie Says

Foolproof ID for your pets

When an emergency or disaster situation occurs on our mountain...and that's WHEN, not IF...we can pretty well predict that there will be dozens of frightened and/or injured cats and dogs running loose. ARF volunteers will be doing their best to round up and reunite these poor creatures with their frantic humans, but unless the animals are personally known to our volunteers, it will be impossible to accomplish this without identification.

As part of ARF's disaster preparedness plan, we are urging everyone to get their dogs AND cats chipped and registered. Certainly, they should have a collar with some sort of identifying information...the animal's name, your name and

phone numbers...but frantic pets often manage to lose their collars. A universal microchip, once registered with current phone number and address, is a guaranteed ticket home for your beloved pet.

Microchips and help registering them are available at Sadie's Clinic. If you can't afford the small fee, talk with someone at ARF or the clinic. (659-1122)

And, please, spread the word in this important message to your family and friends who have pets. Imagine how frightened your dogs and cats will be without you in a disaster. They are part of your family and depend on you. Love them enough to give them this protection.



ARF Wish List

It is so easy to help ARF in its mission, even for those who are short on time and just cannot volunteer. ARF has a "wish list" of items that are vital to its daily operations. Please consider picking up one or more of these items and dropping them off at the ARF House. Your donation will be greatly appreciated!

dry adult dog food, canned dog food, laundry soap, bleach, cleaning supplies, dog treats, chew bones, electric clothes' dryer

For those who have a little time to spare, volunteers are needed for spring yard clean up, gardening, future dog run construction/set-up, walking dogs or taking them on short hikes. Please contact ARF at 951-659-1122.

Winter is just around the corner, which most likely means Fido will be spending more time in the house. How are his house manners?

Mountain Pawlytechnic Canine Education

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Janice Murasko, certified trainer

KPA CTP APDT

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mtpawly@gmail.com

Trainer Talk

Leader of the Pack? Dominance in a Dog's World

With the proliferation of dog training television programs, the discussion of dominance and pet dogs is commonplace. “Little Lulu is the alpha dog!” “I am the leader of *my* pack!” “Fido plays like that because he is showing dominance!” Dominance is likely offered as an explanation for many dog behaviors, and some trainers believe dominance is the path to well-trained dogs.

What is the definition of dominance when it comes to domestic dogs? The first definition relates to interactions between dogs. In this usage, dominance is defined as the power to control access to desirable resources and refers to the relative status of two dogs. In the absence of two dogs, an individual dog cannot be described as dominate because this definition refers to two.

The second, and more controversial definition relates to the dog-human interaction. Trainers who follow the school of thought that the human must be dominate believe the human must exert this dominance in order to get the dog to “behave,” such as in staying off of the furniture, not walking through the doorway first, and making a resting dog move rather than walking around him. Today, fewer and fewer trainers subscribe to these ideas than in the past.

Dominance between dogs has undergone more study recently by scientists. Ethologist, Becky Trisko, PhD, studied a group of 24 dogs that regularly engaged with one another at day-care. What she found was a dominance hierarchy among the dogs, but only about 30 percent of the pairs had clear dominance relationships. Dominance rank correlated with age (older dogs tended to rank more highly), but not with size. Contrary to common belief, neither mounting nor performing chin-overs were relative to status. Not once in 224 hours of observation did she observe an “alpha roll.”

Trisko observed that dominance was not about coercion, force, or fighting, but rather it was about an understanding by both individuals of their relative social status.

In relating her studies to and discussing the use of dominance by humans to train dogs, Trisko said, “Dominance has been wrongly equated with aggression and used to rationalize the use of physical force and intimidation by humans toward dogs. Misunderstanding of the concept of dominance have led to unnecessary physical punishments and abuse of dogs by humans.”

Alarmingly, there is evidence that such training styles can create problems. In a 2009 study by M.E. Herron, it was found that these dominance reduction techniques were counterproductive. The confrontational methods associated with training styles that insist humans “get dominance over” the dogs caused aggressive responses in 25 percent of the dogs. Techniques such as grabbing a dog by the jowls and shaking, hitting or kicking, staring, performing alpha rolls (also called “dominance downs”), and physically forcing a dog to release an item were more likely to result in aggressive behavior than were gentler, positive methods.

If we take a look at what we know about dominance between dogs, we see that using forceful methods can actually create problem behavior as well as an increase in a dog's fear and anxiety. “If dominance relationships between dogs and humans are at all similar to dominance relationships between dogs, then dominance does not apply to all relationships, and when it does apply, it does *not* require the use of intimidation or physical force,” said Trisko.

Simply summed up, we must understand the animal with which we coexist. Understanding how social dominance does and does not apply to dogs is part of knowing who dogs are.

-Janice Murasko
KPA CTP
APDT

Herron, M.E., et al. 2009 Survey of the use and outcome of confrontational and non-confrontational training methods.

Trisko, R.K. “dominance, Egalitarianism and Friendship at a Dog Daycare Facility.” 2011



As We All Know, the Nose Knows

Imagine this: you're reading a very moving, important letter from a dear friend, and just as you are getting to the most important part, someone grabs the letter from you and runs. Aaarrgghh! That same sense of frustration is exactly what a dog experiences when, while on a walk and very engrossed in an intriguing smell on a blade of grass, is yanked away by an impatient handler.

We use our eyes to "read" our world, while a dog uses its nose. It's true that dogs see better in the dark than we do. It's also true that they can hear two octaves higher than we do. But what they can do with their noses, that we cannot, is absolutely amazing. Think about these differences:

- If you were able to spread out the scent detecting membranes in your nose, they would cover your thumbnail. If you were to spread out the scent detecting membranes in Fido's nose, they would cover a pocket handkerchief.
- Fido has nearly 20 times more primary cell receptors in his nose than you do.
- For you to detect a smell, it would require a concentration of at least 100x that of what your dog requires. In fact, in some cases, it would require a concentration of a million times!! A dog can detect a human scent on a glass slide that has been lightly fingerprinted and left *outside* for two weeks!
- Taking into consideration your dog's size versus yours, her olfactory lobes, which are housed in the brain and decode signals of scent arriving from the nose via olfactory nerve, are dramatically larger than yours.

Not only does your dog detect smells better than you, he can distinguish between scents much better. In trials, dogs were able to pick out human footprints and know what direction the human was traveling *three hours earlier*. Amazing, but what is really amazing is that the human footprints were "buried" among scents including animal urine, garbage, plant, and tree odors! If your family includes a Bloodhound or Basset



Hound, you are probably nodding your head as you read this article.

Now for the *really* amazing fact: dogs have a nose within the nose. It's called the vomeronasal organ, or VNO, and is especially good at detecting pheromones, chemical signals coming from their canine brethren. The VNO works like this: A puppy sniffs a lamp post and, in a subtle move that most people miss, she touches her tongue to the lamp post and deposits some material from it onto the roof of her mouth. From there it goes into two ducts that lead to VNO sensory endings. That is how the dog learns, for instance, that she has come upon parahydroxybenzoic acid, a pheromone in both vaginal secretions and urine. She experiences an "ah-ha" moment, recognizing the scent and identifying from which dog it came. She then leaves "pee mail" to let her know she found the "calling card."

The VNO might be part of the reason Fido becomes nervous when arriving at the veterinarian's office. He probably smells all sorts of chemical signals from other dogs who were scared or stressed. He has read the signals and now knows "what's up."

So the next time you're walking your precious princess, and she drives you crazy with the stopping and sniffing, try to remember that she is "reading" her world.

Information from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University







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Baxter's Buddies

Who are Baxter's Buddies? They are his fellow ARF adoptees and their stories. Each month, Baxter will share the story of an ARF rescue, adopted into a loving, forever family.

I am so, so happy to be writing this month's edition of Baxter's Buddies about two very special ARF friends, Chip and Elsie. Chip is one of the original Anza Gang, rescued from a hoarding situation, months and months ago. Elise, along with her sister Tawny (who has also found a forever home!), was at ARF a shorter period of time. How wonderful that they have found a forever, loving family together. Their "dad" Scott told me their story.

Mary Ann and I have been contemplating adoption of a rescue for quite some time. Upon our move to Idyllwild from L.A., we decided to pay ARF a visit. The moment we walked into the room where the dogs are boarded, Elsie jumped up into my lap and buried her head in my thigh. Chip took a few minutes to come around and when he did, he went to Mary Ann. So, we both had our favorites. After several visits with the dogs over the following weeks, the moment came to decide on which dog to give a home. We decided on both!

We first looked through a giant folder of the adoptees at an ARF booth at the Lemon Lily Festival, the weekend of our move to Idyllwild. Elsie is a lover. And she loves to explore. Chip does a specialty trick where it looks like he's swimming across the floor (or your body). My mother has two rescue Chihuahuas in Las Vegas, but this is my first pet adoption ever.

Wow, Chip and Elsie really give you a schedule. It is like having kids. They adjusted easily to crate training and spend time in their canvas crate together whenever the both of us need to slip away for a couple of hours. We are really glad we brought home two, so they will never be alone ever again.

We kept the names that were assigned by ARF. Elsie is named that way because she's white with big black spots... remember Elsie the Cow?

Chip just looks like a chip. A chocolate chip. A wood chip. A chipmunk. We sometimes call him Chip the Whip. They know their own names and look right at you when you speak to them. I would recommend that anyone considering a pet adoption to visit the dog several times to be 100% sure that you will be a forever parent.



Michael Ahern

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Oh no! Earthquake! Fire!!

Don't Forget Fido and Fluffy When Preparing to Survive

Unfortunately, too many Californians suffer from a common malady known as the "It Won't Happen to Me" syndrome, which can put the sufferer in a precarious situation. Just how many Californians are truly prepared for a raging forest fire or *the big one*? Probably not many.

But even those who are might not be as prepared as they think they, *if they have pets*. As you make survival plans for you and your loved ones, don't forget your four-legged family members. Below is a fairly comprehensive list of items to include in your emergency preparation.

Dog Harness and Leash: In a stressful situation, a harness is probably safer than a collar.

Cat Crate: Even if your cat enjoys the occasional walk on a leash, a crate is probably a safer bet in an emergency.

Copy of Vaccination Records: Should you have to leave your pet at a shelter while you deal with our own shelter, it will probably not be accepted without vaccination records.

Pet Identification: Microchip your pet!! (See *Sadie Says* in this issue). Have an extra collar with an ID tag attached. Have photos of your pets in your emergency supplies, just in case they should be lost. It is also a good idea to have a photo of you with your pet(s) in case you have to prove ownership.

Food: Have at least one week of food for each pet. If you are using cans, don't forget a can opener! Put kibble in a waterproof container. Be sure to rotate food to avoid expiration. Include calming treats.

Water: When determining the correct amount of water to have ready for your family members, be sure to factor in your pets.

Dishes: Have a food bowl and a water bowl for each pet. Toss in a spoon, as well.

Dog crate: A crate will be invaluable if you must transport your dog (or cat).

Poop bags/litter box

- **First Aid Kit for Animals:** You can check with your veterinarian to see what s/he recommends. Also, some outfits sell First Aid kits for

pets. Some recommended items for a First Aid kit are:

- First Aid Book for Dogs/Cats
- Conforming Bandage (3" x 5")
- Absorbent Gauze Pads (4" x 4")
- Absorbent Gauze Roll (3" x 3")
- Cotton Tipped Applicators (Qtips) 1 small box/bag
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Emollient Cream
- Tweezers and Scissors
- Instant Cold Pack
- Latex Disposable Gloves
- Muzzle. A properly fitting muzzle is also recommended, as any injured animal has a tendency to bite when they are in pain

Medications: Have a two-week supply

Chew Toys

Contact List: Vet emergency care, animal control and local shelters, pet-friendly hotels/motels

One of the smartest things a pet owner can do is to take a pet CPR/First Aid class from a certified trainer. When disaster strikes, odds are against the pet owner who hopes to get an injured pet to a veterinarian, and as much as they would love to help, firefighters and other first responders will have their hands full dealing with human emergencies. Please keep your eyes and ears open for the next class offered through ARF. Taking this class, along with being prepared with supplies, could make the difference between life and death for your beloved pet.





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Adoptees of the Month

WINSTON



It's hard to resist hugging that big brown head of Mr. Winston. And then even harder to keep yourself from falling in love. Winston is a 2-3 year old American Staffordshire Bull Terrier. But he doesn't know that. He doesn't know that he's not a lap dog and can't understand why so many are fearful of his

breed. He is a true lover of people, children, and four-leggeds of all shapes and sizes. And a little fearful of thunder. Many of you may recognize Winston as he is a cabinet member for Mayor Max, promoting pet safety and welfare. You may have seen him walking around town, as he loves the leash. Favorite places to be: by your side, in the 4th of July parade, taking naps, and at his food bowl. Oh, on your lap, and in the bed!



TWIGGY



Twiggy looks every day from the safety of her cat tree for just that perfect person, the one who will love her unconditionally as she purrs in your lap. She is six-years old, declawed, and prefers to be the only four-legged in the house. Her human is gone, but Twiggy knows there has to be someone who will love her as he did. Favorite places to be: looking out the window of course as the birds fly by, eating anything that smells fishy, and in your lap.



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Owner

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Dog Day Sundays at Carol's

*Kickoff Event * Future Sundays will feature more fun and music.*

Sunday, Oct. 21 1 P.M.- 4 P.M.

Carol's Restaurant at Bailly Winery

33440 La Serena Way at Rancho California



Bring your well mannered, dolled up doggies for a fun afternoon of music, food, wine, prizes and special guests.

A portion of the day's proceeds will be donated to Idyllwild's animal rescue ARF

*Idyllwild's own "Hot Flash"
featuring Sandi Castleberry, Kathleen Johnson and Anne Finch.*

Allen Riedel, author of Best Hikes with Dogs in Southern California will be available to sign copies of his book. Also you can meet his canine hiking companions.

*Meet Idyllwild's 1st Mayor...Max the Golden Retriever
Max can inform you of what he has accomplished in his term so far.
He is a very dedicated mayor.*

Amelia Durham of Banyan Photography will have her mobile dog studio available for that special photo.

*Wine Country Hot Dog bar featuring world famous Pink's Hot Dogs
And more fixings than you can shake a stick at (dog talk).*

*Costume categories: Cutest, Scariest, Silliest, Most Glamorous,
Most Handsome*

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