

CRUSADERS CHRONICLES

Summer 2007

Animals' Crusader's
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CAN'T WE TAKE JUST ONE MORE!??

Our trip to Santa Rosa brought more than we bargained for (17 to be exact). We were invited to participate in a stray dog round-up, and from the looks of it driving in to the small village I'm glad we had the forethought to bring two vans and a truck. Dogs of all sizes were being humanly trapped at the community center. More people continued to arrive with dogs and puppies in the back of trucks, all wanting us to take them. Some were strays who wandered to their house in search of food, others the unwanted litters now grown to adult. Either way, just too many dogs. Our next trip was to Crowhang and finding many more dogs who need help, starving and mangy. We took in a stray we named Sweetie, her two 6 month old pups Lilly & BillyBob and her most recent litter of 7, a brother and sister pair of pit bulls Holly & Hank, both suffering from wounds and mange. **THIS IS IT, NO MORE!** Well at least till laying eyes on Bennie, ugly Bennie as he is now know. A contractor who was in sells to place a bid brought Bennie to our attention. He was begging for food outside the Bashas market. Almost completely hairless, his skin pink from mange & infection. He was rail thin with teeth worn down to nubs from years of chewing the ever constant itch of sarcoptic mite infestation. YES this one we can take. Bennie is on the porch as I write this, hair growing back and gaining weight. Who would think this is the same dog. Smart, obedient, and happy, but will never be confused with beautiful Bennie.



Sweetie's first warm bed!



Ugly Bennie after two weeks of treatment!!!!

FOSTER HOMES DESPERATELY NEEDED!!!!

This spring brought 28 additional dogs to our adoption program. We have 8 dog runs rented at six dollars per dog per day. These fees add up quickly and as noted just provide shelter for about 1/4 of the rescue dogs in our care. Foster homes allow us the space and time needed to treat the injured, and heal the sick. Please consider opening your heart and your home to one of these needy dogs. We provide food and medication AND you provide the time and love necessary to give a life a second chance.

ANIMAL ORDINANCE PASSES ON TOHONO O'ODAM RESERVATION

on January 9th the Tohono O'odam legislating council passed a rigid animal control ordinance which prohibits the owning of more than 2 dogs, as well has breed restrictions on pit bull, rottweilers and wolf hybrids. Although this ordinance is at present time not being enforced, there is rumor of changes to come. We applaud the council for recognizing the over population and desperate conditions of most of the animals, For this recognition is the first step. The Nation currently has no animal control officers and must depend on police for enforcement and even if animals are picked up has no facility to hold or care for them. However, I am hopeful that this ordinance might be the beginning of a plan to reduce the unwanted animal population not thru mass euthanasia, but a systematic approach to a village by village spay neuter program.

Our Wish List!!!!

Land to build a permanent shelter

Dog food, dog food, dog food, dog food, dog food!!!!

Gift cards for pet supplies

Dog houses and beds

Chain link dog runs

Dollars for the dogs!!!

Volunteers to walk our dogs!!!

AC Volunteers expand horizons in search of good homes!

When Animals' Crusaders board members Lisa Clore and Becky Lahey heard about adoption space available at a New Mexico Adoptathon, the van was loaded up ready to go! The semi-annual event held by Watermelon Mountain Ranch (WM Ranch) in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, (greater Albuquerque area), was held the first weekend of May this year. When WM Ranch was contacted by a relocated AC volunteer and board member about attending their event with dogs from Arizona, we were welcomed with open arms. "The more the merrier!"

Held in a giant tent in the PetSmart parking lot, there were well over 100 dogs from near and far. Puppies, large dogs, small dogs, pure bred, mixed breeds, special needs and even some cats and kittens in the mobile adoption trailer all anxious to find new homes. The excitement elevated as the tent filled with dogs from various rescue groups and passers-by started to stroll the tents looking for new family members to go home with.

Animals' Crusaders, unique to most rescue groups, still followed all established procedures while at this event. Applications were taken, interviews were conducted and home checks followed before any dogs were sent home. Though only 2 of the 6 dogs that went to New Mexico found new homes there that weekend, the event was considered a real success for Animals' Crusaders and the dogs that went home with their new families. Every animal we place is a success for our group, the new families and the lucky dogs that find new homes with them.

Our heartfelt thanks to Watermelon Mountain Ranch for opening their doors and hearts to other, smaller rescue groups trying to make a dent in the crisis of overpopulation and to PetSmart for providing this great, high traffic location for these much needed events. The next adoptathon will be in September 2007, maybe we'll see you there!



TRUE LOVE BLOSSOMS ON THE REZ!!

One morning last year, while putting out fresh food and water for dogs on the reservation, two of our volunteers heard faint cries. Thinking it could be an animal in distress they headed toward the large Palo Verde tree in the direction of the cries. There at the base of the tree was a beautiful female dog and her six newly born puppies. All six were attempting to suckle at the same time. As our volunteers inches closer for a better look, they heard angry barking behind them. A few feet away stood a large, male dog. He was obviously protecting his family. Our volunteers walked away while the male dog went and sat by the female and pups. Two days later they returned to check on the new family. They knew that once weaned, the puppies would scatter into the desert anxious to start exploring. They could not defend themselves from predators. And, if they wandered away from the area, they would not have food or water. At approximately six weeks, they did just that. They were going in all directions to explore their new world. Our volunteers gathered up the puppies and took them to the clinic for health checks. Soon they were all adopted into good homes.

Meanwhile, back on the reservation, mama and papa were still together. He continued to be protective of her and never let her out of his sight. She enjoyed being patted, while he would prance around her making certain ever vigilant that no harm would come to her.

They had to be spayed and neutered before she came into heat again so that another litter of stray puppies would not be born. She was easily lured into a carrier to be taken to the clinic. He would have no part of it! It was sad separating them, but it was a necessary. So they took her and left him behind. We understand that he stayed around during the day and would howl and cry all night while she was away. Approximately four days after her surgery, and when the vet was certain she was healing without complications, our volunteers returned her to the reservation to be reunited with Papa dog.

Hollywood couldn't have planned a more moving love scene! When the car door opened, Mama dog jumped out. Papa dog was there – they ran toward each other and started licking (kissing) one another's face. Like two young playful dogs, they took off running side by side into the open field and, as if on cue, they turned and the ran back. They were so happy to be together again!

Our next priority would be to once again attempt to lure Papa dog into a carrier, and take him to be neutered before the next mating season. Being a street smart dog, he was still not trusting of humans. In order to capture him, reinforcements had to be called in. Friends on the reservation offered to help us out. They succeeded in luring him by putting a raw steak in the large carrier! He couldn't resist a steak!!

Upon his return, several days later, the love scene was reenacted.

During the summer months, our volunteers take food and water to the reservation twice a week. Mama and Pap dogs are there to greet them and to receive their special treats. In between these visits, our reservation friends give them marshmallow treats! Yes, he is still her guardian, visibly protecting her whenever anyone gets too close to her. He still prances around for awhile before allowing anyone to love him. As our volunteers pull out toward the open road, they glance in the rear view mirrors for another view of Mama and Papa dogs playing or laying ever so close to each other.

This special caring and protective behavior is no uncommon among canines and other animals, and it is heartwarming to witness. As always, there's much to be learned from our furry companions—especially about loyalty to one another.



Papa dog (left) & Mama dog (right)



Have you hugged your pets today?

**Got Dirty Dogs! Need a Bath! It's your lucky day!! AC will be holding a "Dog Wash" on Sunday, June 24th from 9 am – 2
at At Home Kennels, 9575 E Millmar Rd, Tucson, AZ.**

Bath = \$10 Nail trim = \$5 Brush out = \$5

All proceeds to go to Animals' Crusaders of Arizona, www.acofaz.com



ADOPTION EXTRAVAGANZA!!

We invite you to visit At Home Kennel at 9575 E. Millmar, 722-3162 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday of the month between 8am and noon or Petco, 22nd/Harrison, 11—3pm Or stay out of the heat and go to our web, www.acofaz.com

Animals' Crusaders of Arizona
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