

Rio Verde

September 2010

Rounding

The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association serves the unincorporated county lands north and south of Rio Verde Drive. The Association's purpose is to protect all horse properties and privileges and to preserve the equine and rural lifestyle. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support this purpose. Voting is only open to property owners in this area.

Abuse It and we'll Lose It!

-by Margaret Scott

Along the southern border of the Tonto National Forest there are several access gates which allow everyone access into the Tonto National Forest. A few years ago the Forest Service, with help from the RVHA, put in as many gates as they felt were needed. These gates allow everyone access into the Tonto to enjoy various activities from horseback riding, hiking, riding ATVs, dirt bikes and mountain bikes.

Well, obviously not enough were installed for some people. The fence is being cut in several locations over and over again. Property owners are putting in their own private access gates, which are also ILLEGAL! When these individuals are caught, and they will be, they will be fined and taken to court by the Forest Service.

If you have a horse that will not use the step-over then ride to a multi-use gate or let me know. We have several wonderful trainers in this area that will be more than happy to help train your horse to use the step-over. We don't want to lose the benefit of having access into the Tonto from our area, but if this continues we will!

I'd like to be able to say the fence cutting is being done solely by individuals who do not live in this area, but I can't. Let's not let a few ruin it for everyone. The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association does not police, but to protect this privilege we will!

Let's all work together to stop this abuse before we lose the privilege.

If you have any information contact:

Rick Alvarado

**Law Enforcement Officer, U.S. Forest Service
Office 480-595-3311 or Cell 480-406-7743**

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President's Comments

What a long hot and humid summer. No monsoon rain again this year, at least nothing to write home about. We're all looking forward to fall with cooler temperatures so we can enjoy being outdoors again. In this issue of Roundup, you'll find several good articles concerning different issues. Two of them concern the Tonto Forest, please read them. This is something of importance to everyone who lives in our area. If you see or know of someone cutting the Tonto fence please contact the Tonto Forest Service and report them. Don't let a few take away a privilege for the rest of us.

This year's Fall Dinner Dance will be held at Greasewood Flat on Saturday, October 16th. With our current economy the RVHA Board wanted to do something to make it affordable for all RVHA members who would like to attend. So, it's Burger Night at Greasewood. Everyone will still need to RSVP. Those wanting to eat will need to send a check for \$8.00 per person for RVHA members; \$10.00 per person for guests of members. Look for the flyer in this issue of Roundup. Everyone come and have a great time!!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 5th. It's the RVHA Holiday Picnic down at the Box Bar Ranch in Rio Verde. What a beautiful location! RVHA Board members will be cooking burgers, dogs or whatever. Just bring the family and a potluck dish to share. We'll have games, prizes and entertainment. More information will be available in the near future.

**Thank you to all our advertisers. Members,
please remember to patronize them.
We truly appreciate your support.**

Margaret Scott
RVHA President





A COWBOY'S TRIBUTE TO DOC CAVALLIERE

Joyce and Greasewood Flat will be having a "TRIBUTE TO DOC"

on the first anniversary of his day of quite. Please bring your family and friends and join us for an afternoon of Cowboy Poetry, Songs, Friendship and Love for a Cowboy who tried to keep the old west for all of us to enjoy.

A cowboy who never wore a hat.

Place

Greasewood Flat
27375 N. Alma School Pkwy.
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Date

September, 19th 2010

Time

3:00 PM to????

Well, we're into the third quarter of 2010 and our membership continues to grow. We are currently at 435 members. We have 66 brand new members just this year. After July 1st, the dues are reduced by one-half, so if you have some friends and neighbors who are still "on the fence" about joining, tell them they can get in and try us out for half price.

With your membership come benefits! Throughout the year we have a number of different events that everyone can join in on. These events require all types of preparation and we're always looking for assistance. If you'd like to offer your time, let us know. We'll be more than happy to put you to work!!!

We'd like to welcome the following people who have become members since our last newsletter:

- Ken and Simone Aamold
- Tony Babich and Jill Allee
- Chad and Cyndi Bibler
- Sean Doherty
- Jim Forsell and Susan Wilke
- Ryan Harvey and Eden Silver
- Glenn and Nellie Hernandez
- Larry Kalina
- Jessica Manriquez
- Pam Ostboe and Ron Robertson



As members everyone is entitled to RVHA vehicle license plates for your car or truck. If you

haven't received yours yet, please contact me and we'll see to it you get yours. If you have friends or neighbors who are not members of RVHA, get the word out and get them to join our fine organization.

For any questions we can help you with, please contact either me or Judy.

Mo Wachman * 480 471-3131
Judy Riley * 480 471-0056

mo@rvha.us
judy@rvha.us



E-MAIL ALERTS & REQUEST LINE

-by Mo Wachman

As usual I'd like to define our email alert system since we do have new members not familiar with how this works. We now separate it into 4 categories: the Alerts – notices of lost and found animals; **Notices** – information about an upcoming event, meeting, weekend events or invitations; and **Request Line** – where any member can post a request for just about anything. And our newest service, the **Classified Ads**.

Terry Stecyk has been doing a wonderful job getting the Classified Ads started and we're making progress with each edition of the ads. I'd like to repeat the criteria we will allow:

1) "For Sale" ads will be sent out via email on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

2) Each ad – up to 5 items – will be \$10 and will run only one time. More than 5 items will be an additional \$1.00 each.

3) Ads must be prepared and received electronically. If we are to prepare the ad(s) there will be an additional \$5 charge. Pictures will be allowed. Send the ads to: terry@rvha.us

4) Ads must include a brief description of item(s) along with the price for the item, contact information including name, phone # and/or email address



5) Ads must be received by Tuesday of the ad week, as well as payment. Checks are to be sent to: RVHA, 28150 N. Alma School #103-112, Scottsdale, AZ 85262. If payment is not received by Tuesday, the ad will be held until the following week or until payment is received.

6) The RVHA reserves the right to edit and/or refuse ads.

It seems like the hardest thing for us is getting the money promptly. We really don't like holding up the ads, so PLEASE get your money in on time.

Again, we certainly appreciate everyone who takes the time to report a lost or found animal, and those of you who care for the found ones until their owners are located. **THANK YOU!!**

If you haven't been receiving our alerts, please notify me and I'll make sure I have your current/correct email address in our system.

Alerts are available to RVHA members in good standing. If you'd like to be added to the alert list, please send me an email at: mo@rvha.us or call me at 480-471-3131.

REMINDER: Be sure your animals have collars and tags with current information. Microchips are also a great idea!

RANCH NEWS

-by Jenny Powers

By the time RVHA member, Al Dunning, was finally getting back in the saddle after arthroscopic surgery on his knee, his (and Becky's) daughter presented them with their first grandchild. Gracie Ann was born on July 9th to MacKenzie (Dunning) and Shadd Parkinson. Congratulations to the happy parents and grandparents! And Al, take care of that knee.

Gina Mure – volunteer for Pets on Wheels

Although RVHA member Gina Mure primarily works with horses, she has always trained her own dogs



**Gina Mure and her dogs,
Sox and Chloe**

and gets a kick out of teaching them fun tricks. If your dog needs some help with manners, feel free to get in touch with her! Her dogs, Chloe and Sox, know a variety of tricks and assist Gina in her volunteer work with Pets on Wheels by visiting at local nursing

homes. Sox and Chloe also recently participated in the 4th Annual Macy's Community Shopping Day, an event that raised money for a variety of charitable organizations, including Pets on Wheels.

Gina remembers visiting her grandmother, who had Alzheimer's, in a nursing home. Although Gina was quite young at the time, she noticed that many of the other patients and residents had no family or friends



visiting them and how lonely they were. Many years later, after seeing a Pets on Wheels bumper sticker, she knew she had found a meaningful job for her dogs.

Gina believes dogs are happiest when they have a job to do and as a result, Chloe and Sox have been visiting nursing homes since they were less than a year old. Information on Pets on Wheels can be found at www.petsonwheelsscottsdale.org. It is a wonderful organization connecting those in assisted living facilities with people who have well-behaved animals. Although dogs are the most commonly used, pet-teams have included birds, rabbits, and even mellow cats who love attention!

There is a very low fee to get involved in the program. You will be assigned a care facility close to your home. The fee covers the cost of a background check, badge, orientation, and evaluation of your pet. This is not a stringent training program. They are looking for good manners and a friendly disposition (in you as well as your pet).

Being a part of this program is a truly rewarding experience, and will brighten your day as much as it does the people you visit. Research has shown that the most serious disease for the elderly is not cancer or heart disease – it is loneliness. It may sound more like a poetic image than an overwhelming medical reality, but people die of broken hearts. Love is the most important health tonic we have and pets are one of nature's best sources of love. When you are having a bad day just grab your pet and go brighten someone else's day, you will feel better in no time.

Theresa Thraen – Volunteer at Arizona Border Collie Rescue

In our last issue we introduced you to Theresa and her own Border collies as well as the dogs she fosters for

Arizona Border Collie Rescue. We are happy to report that Banjo, mentioned last time, has found a forever home. Since then Theresa fostered Sonic, renamed Jolly, who has gone to a forever home in Dewey and started agility training. Currently Theresa is fostering Lexie, a one year old purebred who had been placed on the County euthanasia list for fearful



Sonic with his new family

behavior. With patient training and the encouragement of Theresa's own dogs, Bryn and Cookie, Lexie is now ready for adoption.

Theresa's dog Cookie, already realizing success with agility competition, has now begun herding training. Cookie not only herds the sheep, but is proficient with herding ducks and will soon start on cattle. Theresa plans to compete with Cookie for the title of "most promising started dog." Cookie appears to be a natural at herding! Good luck Theresa and Cookie!



A Happy Ending Story

We all receive a steady stream of emails concerning lost pets. This story is one with a very happy ending. Early this summer Theresa received an email from fellow RVHA member, Cecile Rudis, concerning a lost Border collie mix. The dog, Dawn, had recently been adopted from Reservation Rescue and had tags and a microchip, but could not be located. Theresa forwarded the article to her list of contacts, including Ann, president of the Arizona Siberian Husky Rescue. Ann knew the woman who had lost her dog and referred her to a pet detective. Dawn's owner contacted Deb at Missing Pet Detectives LLC and Deb took her team of dogs to search for Dawn. Dawn was located and is going to be fine. She had been hit by a car and crawled into bushes to hide. This happy ending would not have been possible without the chain of emails sent in an effort to assist recovering the dog. Thanks for passing along those messages!

FEDWELL FARM RESCUE, INC.

No Kill Shelter

A 501(c)(3) Corporation

PACC911 Member

Thank you to everyone that came to our open house in the spring, it was great meeting our neighbors at the reception we had! If you missed our open house, we would like to introduce ourselves.

Fedwell Farm Rescue, Inc. is a small rescue in the Rio Verde area. Although small, we are proud of our 295 adoptions in the past 2 years.

We are a New Hope Member of Maricopa County Animal Care Control. Most of our dogs come from the euthanasia list at the county shelter. This means we are the dog's last hope. If we don't take them into our shelter, they are more than likely euthanized the next morning. These are nice dogs that are either fearful in the shelter situation, or they may have "kennel cough", a simple cold that takes minimal medication with a complete recovery.

All of our dogs live in our home; they do not live in kennels. These dogs interact with a family, other animals and many other dogs on a daily basis. They are used to a working routine and are ready to find their forever home with minimal adjustment needed.

We do not have any employees or paid staff, all donations go directly to help the dogs. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation so your donations are tax deductible.

Our funding comes from our adoption fees, donations and mostly from our director's pocket.

Please take a minute and visit our website, www.fedwellfarm.com, we update our available dogs' list daily. We have dogs coming from the pound weekly. Every dog adopted means another life can be saved.

Most of the dogs we take in are herding dogs; we specialize in Australian Shepherds and Australian Cattle Dogs (Queensland Heelers). We have a few puppies as well as older dogs. Most of our dogs are in the 1 to 6 year old range.

Give us a call, check out our website, we would love for you to come out and meet our pups!

We do not have any employees or paid staff, all donations go directly to help the dogs.

Fedwell Farm Rescue, Inc.

602 316 8919

FEDWELLFARM.COM



CONTINUED LITIGATION ON PUBLIC LANDS COULD MEAN AN END TO GRAZING

Your tax dollars fund Environmental Groups' Suits

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the July 2010 issue of Arizona Agriculture, Arizona Farm Bureau's monthly publication for farmers and ranchers.

By Ty Kelly & Anita Waite, Mohave County Farm Bureau and Bonnie Jones & Philip Bashaw, Arizona Farm Bureau

Through the use of litigation, various environmental groups in Arizona are hampering government land management agencies' ability to fulfill their mission. Arizona Farm Bureau members, many of whom depend upon leasing federal lands for their livelihood, are taking action.

For overview, these leases are predominately for grazing cattle and sheep. Grazing fees bring in more than \$17.5 million to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) annually, not to mention the improvements lessees make to the land such as protective fencing, water development, and invasive species eradication as well as deterring wildfire through managed grazing. All of this and our members are feeding America. The cattle industry alone contributes more than \$3.2 billion to Arizona's economy every year, according to the Arizona Beef Council.

Farm Bureau supports several management principles for federal lands, including that all federal land managers make every effort to utilize all grazing allotments and keep them open to livestock grazing, and supports the BLM in their efforts to do this. But in the last several years, environmental groups whose stated purpose is to eliminate grazing from public lands have used the court system to hinder land agencies like the BLM in their mission to sustain "the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations," according to the BLM.

One Group Overwhelms BLM with Petitions, Protests and Appeals

Under a sustained effort, one environmental group in particular has inundated the BLM offices with petitions, protests and appeals. The Western Watersheds Project (WWP), based out of Haley, ID, and with offices in several western states including Arizona, boasts they are "among the most sophisticated and aggressive in using the courts" to further their anti-grazing agenda. Between 2000 and 2009, WWP filed at least 91 lawsuits in the federal district courts and at least 31 appeals in the federal appellate courts, according to the Budd-Falen Law Offices.

Currently in Arizona, WWP has had at least one case in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and at least six in

the Arizona District courts against the BLM and other government land management agencies, affecting lessees in Yuma, La Paz, Mohave, Pinal, Maricopa and Pima counties. Three of the Arizona District court cases were settled for undisclosed amounts, two were issued judgments against the defendants (USFWS and USFS), and one is still open. Not included are the several cases before the Department of the Interior's Office of Hearings and Appeals.

By challenging the work of the BLM in court, the WWP accomplishes its anti-grazing goal in several ways. BLM agents spend their time writing responses to the multitude of petitions, protests and appeals the WWP submits, diverting resources from studying the land, issuing permit renewals or granting new permits.

Your Tax Dollars Fund Their Litigation Efforts

The WWP funds the majority of this litigation through the Equal Access to Justice Act. In a five-year period, over \$4.7 billion in taxpayer dollars were paid to environmental groups for cases against the federal government. In Idaho, WWP has received just under \$1 million for winning lawsuits in just 14 cases. At present, the amount issued to WWP from their Arizona lawsuits cannot be determined, as funds disbursed to winning environmental groups are not logged in a public database, according to the Budd-Falen Law Offices.

Arizona Farm Bureau raises these concerns in the hope that some notice will be paid to the damage environmental groups, particularly WWP, are doing to the BLM's ability to fulfill their mission, and to the permit holders whose livelihoods depend on the best possible range management and timely permit processing.

Grazing has been, and continues to be, an integral part of the management of public lands to the greatest benefit for all. Arizona Farm Bureau members stand willing to help preserve this critical range management tool for future generations.

You can help by contacting your congressional representatives about this issue. Arizona Farm Bureau's web site features a Contact Your Legislators link. This tab will lead you to FBACT where you can connect to your representatives via email and let them know your concerns about this issue. In fact, use the information from this article to compose your email to your representatives. Then ask your representative to request that annual reports be filed under the Equal Access to Justice Act regarding fees and expenses awarded by these groups.



FOUR PEAKS

ANIMAL RESCUE CORNER

Wow! That one word pretty much sums it up for us this summer. Fundraisers, adoptions, surrenders, surgeries, the list goes on and on. We have managed to find homes for more than 20 pets in the past 3 months! That is quite a feat considering we only have three foster homes at this time. A huge thank you goes out to the wonderful volunteers that we have. Without them, it wouldn't have been

possible. Another big thank you to Karsten's Ace Hardware for allowing us to have our bi-weekly adoption events at their store. Many pets find their permanent homes thanks to Ace. Bowl-a-Rama was our summer fundraiser held through the Phoenix Animal Care and Coalition (PACC911) at Scottsdale Lanes in South Scottsdale. It was a day of friendly bowling, and a chance to meet other rescues in the area and a way for our volunteers to have a good time. A big thank you to everyone who pledged; it has enabled us to buy more medical supplies for our pets.

Speaking of which, our surgical suite is up and running and we have been lucky enough to get two local veterinarians to come spay and neuter pets for the rescue. There are still improvements that need to be made, but it is coming along nicely.

Thank you, too, members of the RVHA, for your continued support in our efforts. If you would like to become more involved please check out our website at www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.com or look us up on Facebook. There are links for volunteering, fostering and of course, pets available for adoption.

We currently have 2 litters of cattle dog mix puppies available for adoption. There are 3 females that are 4 months of age, housetrained and very energetic.

The other litter has 5 little girls, only 7 weeks old at this writing. Their mom was a Queensland heeler; she was hit by a car when they were only a week old. They have been in foster care since that time and have been bottle raised. All have been spayed and are looking for their new homes.



Meet Cassie. She and her littermates are very active, energetic group. Cassie is a spayed female Labrador Australian Cattle Dog mix and is about 4 months old. She is very smart and will need a job. Cassie loves water and curious to learn new tricks all the time. She is a little more independent than the rest of her littermates. Cassie would do best in an active household as she has a lot of energy to burn. She is learning how to sit on command, walk on leash and is dog door trained. If you are interested in Cassie or her siblings, please call.

Meet Cami. She and her littermates are very active, energetic group. Cami is a spayed Labrador Australian Cattle Dog mix and is about 4 months old. She is very smart and will need a job. Cami has many of the Labrador traits. She always has a toy in her mouth that she is showing off and she also loves her play pool. Cami is very sensitive not quite timid but very sensitive. She is learning how to sit on command walks nicely on leash and is dog door trained. If you are interested in Cami or her siblings, please call.

*Funding for FPAR is derived from fundraisers, public & private donations, & adoption fees. Donations & Auction items are tax deductible. IRS 501(c)(3) ID No. 36-4262371

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

-by Jenny Powers

Though endurance competition is non-existent in the Southwest during the hot summer months, RVHA members Rusty Toth and Kevin Myers found a way to continue to ride this summer. They have been staying at the summer headquarters of Kevin's employer in Durango, Colorado. Tough life! In late May Kevin rode the Sangre Scenic 75 mile ride in Colorado on his Arabian gelding, Stoner and received the coveted Best Condition Award. Kevin also rode two days of the Strawberry Fields ride in Utah in June on his other Arabian, Far.

Kevin, Rusty and Clydea Hastie traveled to Shell, Wyoming in July for the old classic 100 mile ride, Big Horn. A very difficult ride with over 14,000 feet of climbing, the highest point reached is 11,000 feet elevation. Base camp is at 4,000 feet. Mother Nature was rough on the ride this year and riders endured wind, rain, hail and torrential thunderstorms throughout the



Clydea Hastie on Ashquar's Dream at Big Horn 100 Mile Ride

100 miles. The last loop was turned into a slick, water-filled trail that resulted in riders having to pick their way through boulders and brush along side the muddy path. The truck and trailer hauling blinking light construction barricades to mark the last loop, which was ridden in the dark down the mountainside, slid off the muddy road. The ATVs and barricades could not be unloaded from the trailer, the back end of which was hanging off the steep drop-off at the edge of the road. Fortunately Rusty and Kevin were with a rider, whose GPS held maps from previous years and they were able to safely complete the ride. Clydea riding Ashquar's Dream (Ash) finished in sixth place. Kevin on Far finished ninth and Rusty on his Arabian gelding, Ripper finished in tenth place. Because of the miserable conditions only 15 of the 32 starters completed this ride.

After resting a short time in Durango, Kevin and Rusty traveled to Truckee, California for the Western States 100 mile ride, more commonly known as the Tevis Cup. This year Kevin crewed for Rusty, who finished 19th on this very difficult ride through the Sierra Nevada Mountains from Lake Tahoe to Auburn, California. Rusty rode Kevin's horse, Stoner.

In June Rusty completed certification for barefoot trimming and will add that skill to his career path. Clydea, Kevin and Rusty compete their horses barefoot with hoof boots providing protection on difficult terrain.

"Winners Are..." caught up with the busy Vickie Tanner



Vickie Tanner (holding saddle) with Elizabeth Stomberg of the Southern New Mexico Quarter Horse Association

this summer. Vickie owns Tanner Quarter Horses and specializes in showing for amateur adults. Her barn is preparing for a championship show in Amarillo, Texas in August where Vickie has six qualifiers ranging in age from 50 and 74.

Recent successes for Vickie include winning the high point exhibitor saddle at the border circuit in Las Cruces, New Mexico. At this event Vickie showed in halter, reining, working cow horse, western pleasure and trail! She had nine halter horses, two reining horses, one cow horse, one trail horse and one western pleasure horse at the show – wow! Busy lady! Congratulations to Vickie on her high point win and on keeping track of all those horses!

We look forward to Vickie's report on the outcome of the Amarillo show in the next issue. One of her clients, RVHA member Fran Greene, will be showing a weanling halter filly, a weanling halter colt, a performance halter gelding and a reining horse. Besides working hard at getting her horses ready, Fran found time to hem her own riding pants! Good luck to Vickie and her clients!

The column would enjoy reporting the activities of many equestrian disciplines. We are so fortunate to have a wide variety of equine breeds and riding activities in our community. Please let me know what you have been doing with your horse either individually or as part of a training barn. To share your success stories in reining, mounted shooting, dressage, cutting, team penning, team sorting, jumping, trail trials and other equine activities, please call 480-861-8392 or email jpowers@pbmi.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

THE ARIZONA HORSE COUNCIL

-by Jean Anderson

Summer is about over... at least we all hope. With 112 degrees, one really wonders?

Your Arizona Horse Council (AzHC) has been busy. At our last January Equine Summit, we formed several standing committees. These 8 standing committees are hard at work for you, the equine owner, around the State of Arizona. For this newsletter, I would like to focus on just two: P&Z and Fundraising.

With General Plan Updates in each county (the general plan needs to be updated at least every 10 years), AzHC is looking at each county, through our P&Z Committee, to see what if anything pertains to owners of equines. We have to be diligent to know what's going on in each county. We are still looking for equine volunteers in many counties in Arizona to help us. If you know of anyone who would like to help on this committee, contact Soleil Dolce, the P&Z Chair, who is with the Arizona Equine Rescue. Her email is soleil@azequinerescue.org.

The heart and soul of any organization needs funds to operate, and AzHC is no different from any other

organization. Jean Anderson (redbug@fastq.com), chair, has been looking at different ways to add funds. We have had several raffles; Matt Griffis has been heading up these raffles. Our ATV worth \$12,500 (drawing will be at the next AzHC Meeting in September), and our still ongoing White Stallion Ranch Raffle, for 4 nights stay (valued at \$2400) and includes lodging, all meals, ranch activities, (including horse back riding) tax and service. We still have some raffle tickets available for this. If you want to purchase any tickets, \$10/each, contact Jean or any board member of AzHC. ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD! AzHC also has several items for sale. GO GREEN... RIDE A HORSE Tee Shirts and Bumper Stickers can be ordered and are on our web site: www.arizonahorsecouncil.org.

If you have any desire to help your AzHC on these two standing committees, please contact Soleil or Jean.

Remember our motto: To preserve, promote and protect the Arizona Equestrian Lifestyle.



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TALL TIMBERS HORSE CAMPGROUND

-by Sue McGuire

Just a two and a half hour drive from our doorstep is Arizona's newest horse camp, Tall Timbers in Heber-Overgaard. We (Dan & Amy Cohorst and Jeff & Sue McGuire) hauled our horses there for a weekend of riding and relaxation. We were met by Joe Wager, the man who got this facility established. He showed us where to park, gave us maps, and relayed a wealth of information regarding the riding in the area. The camp abuts the Sitgreaves National Forest. No matter what your riding preference is, roads, trails or bush whacking, you can do it here.

We parked our rigs under pine trees and set up portable fencing in the tall grass; boy, did the horses love that! There were picnic tables under a ramada and grills to cook on. Camping is primitive. Water is available, but not very convenient. We had to drive to the spigot to fill our buckets. And you must haul out your trash and manure.

According to Joe, the best riding weather is between July 1st and October 1st. We enjoyed the 25 degree

temperature difference (in late August) and the good riding we found there, and will certainly return. You can contact Joe Wager at (928) 595-0384



Now it's your turn! Have you found some great horse camping

destinations? Or maybe a fun day-trip place to ride? Please share your experiences with RoundUp! Contact Sue McGuire at (480) 471-3591 or susanrmcguire@aol.com

DOGTOR T --- THE PET VET

-by *Melissa Thompson, DVM*

They look at you with those pleading eyes begging for a little morsel. Of course most people give in. What does a little piece of chicken hurt or why can't they have a bit of ice cream or finish off what the kids left behind? It all adds up to extra calories that our pets don't need. According to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, Americans own approximately 84 million overweight or obese pets. This has become an epidemic, much like the people in this country. The difference is we, as owners, control what the pet consumes. Fido doesn't get up in the middle of the night, stroll over to the fridge and pull out a snack. He needs us to feed him!

In my practice I would say 75% of the pets are overweight. Some days I feel like a broken record, "we really need to work on getting some weight off of Lucky". Obesity is linked to arthritis and other joint diseases, breathing difficulty, chronic inflammation, diabetes, higher risk for anesthesia procedures, shortened life spans, the list goes on. A recent study found that overweight and obese pets had the same damage to their hips and other joints at 6 years of age versus normal weight 12 year old dogs. Most owners are just unaware. They are so used to seeing overweight pets, that they think their pet is normal.

The two questions I get asked the most are "how much should he weigh" and "how much should I be feeding" The problem with these questions is that there is no hard fast rule, no magic number for the scale, no precise amount of food. It varies. The ideal weight for a pet is based on something called the body condition score. We should be able to easily feel the ribs of our pets without having to sift through a layer of fat. We should also be able to see a "waist" on our pets. If we were to look down at our pets' back, we should be able to see where the rib cage ends. (see figure below)

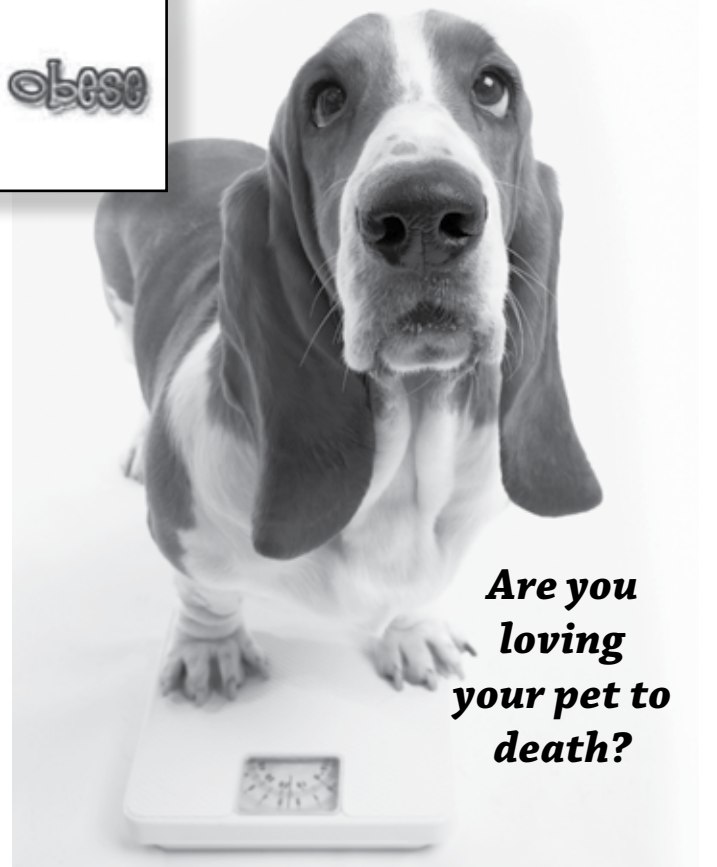
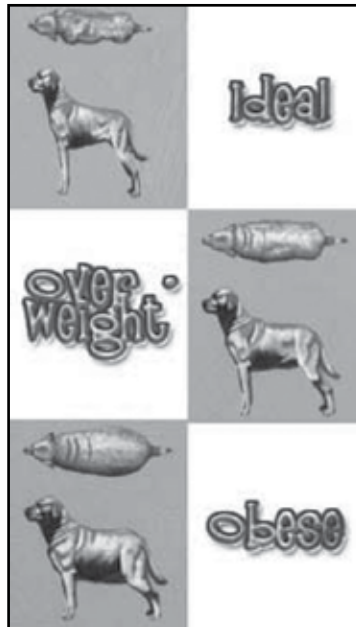
- Ribs palpable, but not visible
 - Slight waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above
 - Abdomen tucked up, flank fold present
- Taken from the Iams Company body condition score chart

As for feeding, again, that is an ever-changing number. The amount of calories that a pet needs during times of growth (puppy) versus adult versus senior dogs is all different. Just because Lucky did well on 2 cups of food a day when he was 3 years old doesn't mean that is what

he should eat when he is 10 years old. My dogs get more food in the winter because they are more active than in the summer. Use the chart on the back of the dog food as a GUIDE. You can control the amount. Most pet food companies overestimate what you should be feeding. If you feel that your pet could use a little less, it is ok to cut him back. Any food changes should be made gradually. Also remember that when Lucky gets his dental bone, or rawhide or any other snack, that equals calories as well. Cut back on the normal food ration for that day. A 40 pound dog moderately active dog should be taking in about 1000 kcals a day compared to a 10 pound dog that only needs about 350 kcals. And don't underestimate the power of a walk. It doesn't matter if Lucky has a doggie door and can go out whenever he wants; he should still be getting out for at least 20 min of walking, playing fetch, etc a day.

If you have concerns about your pet's weight, please discuss it with your veterinarian. In rare cases, pets can have metabolic diseases that can cause weight gain and special medications may be needed to help.

Dr. Thompson is a Rio Verde Foothills resident and RVHA member. She practices at Banfield, The Pet Hospital, at 7077 E. Mayo Boulevard.



Are you loving your pet to death?



RURAL/METRO UPDATE

-by Chief John Kraetz Rural/Metro

I have a couple of issues for you. The first one has to do with ambulance service delivery. I'm not sure if the folks out on the corridor understand that when you call for an ambulance, it usually comes out of Carefree or Fountain Hills. We always get a fire truck on the scene prior to the ambulance's arrival, but that's a long distance for an ambulance to travel. To remedy the situation, we are a couple of weeks away from finalizing an agreement with the Rio Verde Fire District which will create a partnership that will staff a Rural/Metro ambulance stationed at the fire station in Rio Verde. This will dramatically reduce the response time for ambulance service in the corridor.

We will be adding a Rural/Metro firefighter to Rio Verde's staff which will allow them greater flexibility in sending their fire trucks out on the corridor to help out when needed. We were real close to moving in to a residential model (using an existing house) for a fire station out there, but then the economy hit real hard. It seems that folks need to pay their electric bills, and feed their families in lieu of paying for a fire subscription. This makes it real tough to have the funds to put up a station right now. Don't get me wrong, we haven't abandoned our desire and drive to get a station put together, we just have to find some excess funds from somewhere in our other operational areas to get it done. We are working on some creative ideas to make those funds available, and as soon as we can, we will get it done.

I know that I came to you folks over a year ago all gung ho and confident that I would be able to move on this in a matter of a few months. Now it's a year later and there's no fire station. I apologize for that, and in my enthusiasm, I guess I missed the impact the economy would have on the project. I will keep you updated on this ongoing project.

SRP SUB-STATION RE-SEEDING

Several members have asked when SRP is going to do some kind of re-vegetation around the "eye-sore" sub-station on 165th and Rio Verde Dr. Well according to Stephanie Winn from SRP. "Hydro-Seeding was completed at the conclusion of construction in the spring of 2008." "SRP is looking into funds for re-seeding. At this time there is no budget for this."

**Concerns or questions contact:
Stephanie Winn at Stephanie.Winn@srpnet.com**



OHVs AT NEEDLE ROCK

The following is information from the Tonto Forest Service regarding the Verde River Needle Rock recreation area that everyone needs to be aware of.

You will still be able to ride horseback or an Off-Highway Vehicle down to the Verde River from the Rio Verde Foothills. The three east access gates located along 176th St. will remain open. When you arrive at the blacktop road you better make sure your OHV is street legal.

This means any ATV, dirt bike, sand rail, or any OHV that weighs 1,800 pounds or less has to have a license plate, mirror and horn. Effective January 1, 2009, an OHV sticker is now required by law or you will be issued a ticket.

You will not be able to cross over the black top road and ride to the river on an OHV anymore. Pipe rail fencing will be installed to prohibit this. Parking areas will be provided for those wanting to walk down to the river. Several accidents in the last couple of years have taken place at the Camp Creek Cross Road involving OHVs traveling at high rates of speed. The reason for

this change according to the Forest Service is that “people are loving this area to death”.

Many of us were not are aware that motorized vehicles have not been allowed at Needle Rock Beach since 1989. This law hasn't been fully enforced until now.

The Forest Service has several improvements planned for the Needle Rock area including picnic areas, new restrooms and parking areas; they will be eliminating the campgrounds.

The Forest Service is not shutting off OHV access from our area unless we as a community don't obey the rules. Let's all work together and not let that happen.

The RVHA will continue to update our members with the facts. If you have any questions contact: Project Leader, Tammy Pike with the Tonto Forest Service 480-595-3370 or tpike@fs.fed.us For further information regarding OHVs, go online to www.azdot.gov/mvd

“people are loving this
area to death”

