



The Roundup



OFFICERS

President: Terry Holmes-Stecyk
Vice President: Carmela Lizzo

Secretary: Jenny Powers
Treasurer: Mo Wachman

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Lori Bridwell
Mike Oster

Editor: Lisa Goettsche

June 2017 Issue

To contact the board email info@rvha.us

Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.



Message From Your *New* President

Terry Holmes-Stecyk

I am one month into serving as your association president and hopefully will remain less controversial than our presiding USA president. As with all your past RVHA presidents, I want to hear from you any ideas you think RVHA could offer to the community, activities or events you want us to share with members and how we can work towards preserving this beautiful area we all call home.

One goal this year is to enhance your RVHA membership and hopefully bring more value to our members. Carmela, Mike and I will meet as a committee and discuss ideas you send and what we as a board can do to better serve your membership and this community. We are already working on new social event ideas for the fall that we hope will entice even more members to attend.

We read and discussed past survey comments and have strived to bring you even more information, the number one reason people join the RVHA. For members, Mo already sends several eBlasts of up-to-date area awareness information, member requests, RVHA event notices, as well as activities of interest outside our area. Board members serve on committees regarding crucial areas such as area awareness, water, trail development within our neighboring Tonto National Forest and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. We often add contact information so you can directly voice your concerns or support of area happenings.

We offer inexpensive classified ads that go directly to our members' email rather than having them search through multiple Facebook pages, website advertising, information of local emergency contacts, and of course, our fabulous emailed quarterly newsletter, *The Roundup*, with articles and information that we hope are pertinent to our members.

For the community we offer quarterly roadside cleanup, snake avoidance training in the spring, Food Bank collections, Toys for Tots collection, and of course fundraising through our social events that helps support local charities.

But perhaps you feel we can still do better. It all begins with you, so please send your ideas or tell us what we can do to improve your RVHA experience. My email address is terry@rvha.us or you can give me a call or send a text to 480-318-3281.

Table of Contents

President's Message -----Page 1	Foal Training -----Page 11
Updates on Local Items of Interest ----- Page 2	Pollinators Are In Decline, but You Can Help -----Page 13
Eating Organic -----Page 3	Rattlesnake Avoidance Training -----Page 14
Baby Season Has Arrived -----Page 4	Rio Verde Foothills Real Estate Update -----Page 15
Fight the Flight -----Page 5	Dogtor T – The Pet Vet -----Page 15
Extreme Fire Danger Safety Reminder -----Page 6	Magic Water -----Page 16
Update: Fraesfield & Granite Mtn Trailhead Improvements ----- Page 7	Going Where No One Has Gone Before -----Page18
AZ Horse Council Hosting Conferences in AZ-----page8	Wildlife Rehabilitation – Not for Everyone ----- Page 19
Cowboy College -----Page 8	Lifetime Pass to National Parks ----- Page 20
RVHA Spring Dance -----Page 9	
Discovery & Healing Through the Horses of Reigning Grace Ranch -----Page 10	

Upates on Local Items of Interest

By Mike Oster, Awareness Committee Chair

Your RVHA Area Awareness Committee follows trends and developments that could have an impact on us. In each issue, you will find information and perspectives on activities within and surrounding our Rio Verde Foothills.

This is the second in a series of articles to provide you an overview of the Committee and the issues we are following.

Last issue-

Spring '17 Announcement of the Area Awareness Committee

In this issue-

Summer Trends in the Greater Scottsdale area

In future issues-

Fall Surrounding Open Spaces & Public Lands

Winter Nearby Commercial & Residential Developments

Spring '18 Within our RVHA boundaries

Trends in the Greater Scottsdale Area, of which we are a part

Single Family Housing

Scottsdale, and to a lesser extent Phoenix, experienced a significant boom in the 2003-2006 period. During that period, 10% of the people in the US who moved chose to come here.

We also shared disproportionately in the housing bust and recession of 2008-2012. At one point, 57% of homes here were worth less than their mortgages.

The 2013-present recovery has seen a slow and steady improvement in new construction and is expected to continue at moderate pace in the foreseeable future.

Apartments

You have probably noticed that we are in the middle of a building boom in apartments. Large new developments to the south of us are sprouting up everywhere and more are on the way. Will they be absorbed? Yes! These are being built in anticipation of the demand from the Millennials as they find employment and are able to live independently, and from retirees who sell their homes and move here from elsewhere.

Another significant part of the rental market is single-family homes. One in five homes in Phoenix now is a rental. This is expected to continue as potential first time buyers delay their home purchases.

Commercial

As excess inventory becomes absorbed over the next year, expect to see the beginnings of the next commercial building boom in 2018-2019.



Eating Organic? How about your horse? Can you save money by doing so?

By Tami George

Tami has spent many years learning from and working with a certified and degreed equine nutritionist. She wants to share some of the knowledge with our members.

Not that many years ago “animal quality food” was defined as food that was unsuitable for human consumption. It was whole food, but not sufficiently consistent in size or color for use in human products.

1. Animals were still getting whole food nutrition. The problems we have with horses today (and nutrition in general) can all be traced back to changes in agriculture after the takeover of family farms by corporations who have since renamed themselves as the Bio-Ag Industry. The fully mechanized, petroleum chemical-based farming methods they developed defy nature and completely alter the nutritional values of all products they produce.
2. These damaged foods changed the nutritional baseline so we are not starting with the same density or diversity of nutrition available in organic whole foods produced by traditional organic farming methods; organic methods confirmed by 6000 years of recorded history and volumes of modern science.
3. As the Bio-Ag Industry and the giant food processors recognized the (profit driven) need to turn the expense of waste materials into profit centers they lobbied the FDA to redefine “animal quality” to suit their business model.
4. This new definition is essentially any waste material(s) produced during food processing and production.
5. What does this have to do with you and your horse? Everything. Under the old animal quality definition you were getting whole food nutrition --not as pretty as the human stuff, but still, whole food nutrition. This is a critical point, pivotal to understanding the big picture here.
6. So today, the base material you’re typically buying with conventional feed and supplements can be the waste materials from crops nutritionally damaged and incomplete, made toxic with petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides. A 50-pound bag can contain as much as 49-½ pounds of this processed base material.



As a result, the hay and feed we’re giving our horses is deficient in nutrients at the best, and toxic with chemicals at the worst, leaving them functionally malnourished.

So along comes the supplement industry. Problem is the base materials of pretty much all supplements is the same fillers (base materials) used in the feed products. Both industries use the same isolated, chemical based, manufactured nutrients to fortify their formulas. Some PhD is deciding which of the 12, 15, 25 nutrients your horse will get in their product, and by default which of the 10,000 or so nutrients found in organic nutrition will get left out. Enter *Functional Nutrition™*, a term created to help educate the public about the problems and dangers related to these industry problems for nearly 20 years, which now are at epidemic levels.

Most of these companies’ products use plenty of fat sources, and animal and GMO plant materials that will make your horse shiny and fat. That’s all it takes for many horse owners to keep buying.

Saving money. Finally we get to it. Proper feed protocols based on organic sources of whole food and regulated grazing practices can provide all that nature intended for a complete nutritional program for great health, consistent attitude and performance, and a long and happy life; AND will save money, with reduced vet bills and lower feed costs.

Baby Season has Arrived!

By Nikki Julien, Director of Education, Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Spring is the time for baby mammals to be born and this year we are experiencing a bumper crop of babies being brought in to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. Our mission at SWCC is to rescue and rehabilitate Arizona mammals. We always aim for a third 'r' as well, to release! We would love to see every animal brought in to Southwest Wildlife be able to live their natural lives in the wild, but for some animals that is just not possible.

How do we decide which animals are eligible for release and which are not? We have to think about whether that animal will survive in the wild. And for most of the wildlife brought in to our conservation center, the answer has to do with us humans!



Take mammal babies for example. Human babies are cared for 24/7 by another human. If mom and dad want an evening out, that baby is left in the care of another trusted human. Not so with other mammals. Imagine mother bobcat trying to hunt a mouse with a kitten in tow. She probably would not be successful. So mother bobcat stashes her babies in a safe location and comes back to care for them every few hours or even longer intervals. But what happens when we humans see a baby bobcat all by itself? We might think it has been abandoned. Most of the time, the baby has not been abandoned. Mom bobcat is often nearby watching in worry as to what us "well meaning humans" are going to do.

One such "rescued" baby bobcat was brought in to Southwest Wildlife in April. She was barely two weeks old and already friendly to humans. That's not what we want to see. Even at that young age, a baby bobcat should be fearful of humans. Now that's what we want to see! A bobcat that is scared of humans will keep away from humans. And that means a safer bobcat and safer humans. A bobcat that arrives scared of humans is a good candidate for release back into the wild to live its life where nature intended, in nature. The bobcat kitten that came to us was too friendly toward humans to live safely in the wild. She is not a good candidate for release. We named her Catalina and she will spend her life in our sanctuary, perhaps as long as 20 years. And though we will give Catalina the best life we can, it is not the same as being a wild animal in the wild.

What do you do if you find a baby bobcat? The best thing to do is to call Southwest Wildlife and ask us. Here's our animal emergency phone number, 480-433-5656. We will tell you what to do. Often the answer is "Wait!" Mom bobcat will most likely come back and all will be well. If you are sure mom is not coming back, let us do the rescuing. Our rescuers are trained to handle animals that are aggressive or friendly, and have the equipment they need to keep themselves and the animal safe.

Catalina has a lot of growing up to do and needs a lot of care to do it. Because she interacted with humans at such a young age, we humans have left a mark on her. It's called imprinting. Imprinting is irreversible. Catalina will never lose her comfort with humans. Caring for Catalina is a long-term commitment that rivals the needs of your own family pet. She needs a safe, low stress environment here at the sanctuary which means a large enclosure. A new enclosure will have to be built for her to replicate her natural habitat with lots of cover, a private area to sleep, and a rich diet. She needs a good quality of life which means space to roam in her enclosure and things to keep her occupied. She already loves to climb, jump and pounce. She also needs medical care as she ages. All this care takes a financial and emotional commitment in staff time, equipment, and supplies, especially food. Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center is a non-profit facility and entirely community supported. You make the difference in helping us help wildlife. Consider a donation to help Catalina and other mammals arriving this year. Donate through our website, www.SouthwestWildlife.org or through PayPal at donations at southwestwildlife.org.



Another way you can help Catalina and learn more how we take care of Arizona mammals is to come on a tour of the sanctuary. You won't be able to see the babies but you will see many of our sanctuary residents including adult bobcats, bears, mountain lions, javelina, coyote, foxes, and more! Our summer tour schedule includes mornings five days a week and even a few evenings. Go to our website and click on "Visit Us" for the calendar and registration.

FIGHT THE FLIGHT AN UPDATE ON THE SKY HARBOR FLIGHT PATHS

By Marijo Nolan

It's been over 2-½ years since Sky Harbor and surrounding airport's flight paths have changed under the FAA's implementation of NextGen. For those of us affected in the Northeast valley, it's been painfully obvious that nothing has changed, but there has been progress made on the legal and legislative side. Here's a recap:

LEGAL

In June 2015, the City of Phoenix and residents of the Historic District filed a lawsuit against the FAA in the U.S. Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit. Final arguments were presented in court on March 17, 2017. The city and the Historic District are awaiting the final decision of the court. The court has up to a year to make its decision. If Phoenix wins the case, there undoubtedly will be an impact valley wide.

In the meantime, Culver City, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, and Orange County, California have filed suits against the FAA. Buriem Quiet Skies, Washington filed in January 2017. The Maryland General Assembly members wrote a letter to the State Attorney General urging his office to take legal action against the FAA. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan also penned a strong letter to the FAA Administrator requesting a return to the old BWI flight paths.

LEGISLATIVE



In July, 2016, the Quiet Communities Act of 2016 was introduced to Congress. Its purpose is to reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement & Control in the Environmental Protection Agency. If approved, this bill would transfer the oversight and jurisdiction of airplane noise from the FAA to the EPA. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act in December 2016. It includes a provision, introduced by Senators McCain and Flake, requiring the FAA to review flight path changes like those in Phoenix and take steps to mitigate the negative effects the changes have made on communities.

On April 3, 2017, Senators McCain and Flake sent a letter to the FAA Administrator asking for an update on the FAA implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act. As of this writing, more than 2 months later, the FAA has not responded.

The FAA Reauthorization bill of 2017 expires this September. Congress will be deliberating the bill this summer.

FIGHT THE FLIGHT!

We are all aware that government moves at a snail's pace. That's why those of us impacted by the flight path changes must keep the pressure on our representatives. Remind them that we have been robbed of our peace and quiet and quality of life. Write to your Congressmen, especially while they deliberate the FAA's Reauthorization. You can also email your comments to the House Transportation Committee at www.transportfeedback@mail.house.gov.

FILE A COMPLAINT

Sky Harbor, Deer Valley, Mesa Complaints-Go to www.skyharbor.com/flightpaths. Download the complaint app to your smart phone. To file by phone: 602-683-2669.

Scottsdale Airport-Go to <https://eservices.scottsdaleaz.gov/ez/Request/Submit?code=AirportNoiseExt>

Extreme Fire Danger Safety Reminder

By John Kraetz, Rural Metro Fire Chief

This year in particular, we will have an extreme brush fire danger due to all the winter rain we had over the winter. That means that any spark at all can create a devastating fire. One of the causes of brushfires in areas like the Rio Verde Foothills is welding, like pipe rails for corrals. The person welding usually has a protective mask on and doesn't notice a fire until it's too late. If you need to do some welding, have a hose nearby and if possible post an observer to 'watch over your shoulder'. Dragging chains to smooth arenas or to remove vegetation has also caused fires in the past. Again, have a hose nearby if possible. Fires in fire pits during windy days also carry the potential for a fire to get out of hand.

The best thing homeowners can do to help protect their property and the community at large is to clear brush from your property. Create a 30' defensible space around any structures. The clearing of small weeds along property lines can go a long way towards helping the fire department in keeping a brush fire contained to a small area. We offer a property survey to our subscribers to help determine steps homeowners can take to protect their property. If interested, please call Luther Moorhead at Rural Metro Fire department to schedule at 480-606-3398.



As we approach the 4th of July we would like to remind everyone that we live in the desert, surrounded by dry brush and especially this year, extremely flammable tinder with limited fire service support. Please, be mindful of the use of fireworks and the hazards that they can cause. Neighborhood watches will be in full effect; the sheriff and fire department will be on call and on high alert for offenders. It is also a Class One misdemeanor and carries a \$1000 fine.

The use of 'consumer fireworks' is regulated in the State of Arizona in part by House Bill 2246. There is a difference between consumer fireworks and display fireworks. Consumer fireworks include ground and hand-held sparklers, cylindrical fountains, cone fountains, illuminating torches, wheels and ground spinners, flitter sparklers, toy smoke devices, wire sparklers or dipped sticks, multiple tube fireworks devices and pyrotechnic articles. Consumer fireworks DO

NOT include anything that is designed or intended to rise into the air and explode, detonate, or fly above the ground, including items commonly known as firecrackers, aerial spinners, mine devices, aerial shell kits, bottle rockets, sky rockets, missile-type rockets, helicopters, torpedoes, roman candles and jumping jacks.

What this means is that **ANYTHING** that shoots into the air is allowed to be used only by a **LICENSED** professional. If you are not licensed, it is illegal to shoot off any fireworks that rise into the air. With all the vegetation surrounding properties here in the Rio Verde Foothills, the illegal use of bottle rockets or any airborne devices landing in an area containing dried out brush could be disastrous, resulting in a huge wildfire that could easily destroy homes, livestock, and the beautiful desert in which we live.

The State and County can and will cite violators of these regulations and you can and will be held liable for any damages suffered due to the illegal use of the above fireworks. Additionally, Maricopa County may impose a fireworks ban if conditions warrant such and this year is especially at risk.

Please use only permissible consumer fireworks in a safe manner. Monitor your children especially when using sparklers. Sparklers burn at an incredibly high heat and can catch hair and clothing on fire easily. If you plan to use consumer fireworks, please do so in an open, cleared area of your property where there is no brush or tinder within 100'. A sandy arena free of manure, sawdust or grindings would be a perfect place. And always, have a hose nearby!





Update: Fraesfield and Granite Mountain Trailhead Improvements

The Fraesfield Trailhead and Granite Mountain Trailhead are two of the eleven trailheads that provide public access to Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The City of Scottsdale has started the process of preparing master plans for permanent improvements at both trailheads. The process includes development of construction drawings and ultimately the construction of the first phase of improvements.

Both of these trailheads are located in areas where access to the desert has occurred for many decades. In 2013, the city completed preliminary improvements at each site, including access control gates, gravel surfacing for dust control, and pipe rail fencing to prevent motor vehicles from leaving the designated parking areas.

The trailhead facilities may include basic support amenities such as:

- Restrooms
- Passenger Vehicle Parking Areas
- Equestrian Trailer Parking and Staging Areas (hitching rails, water trough, mounting blocks)
- Regulatory and Interpretive Signage
- Shaded Seating Areas
- Drinking Fountains
- Storage Area for Maintenance Supplies

Jenny Powers informed the RVHA board that they had public meetings as well as with people at the trailheads last year to gather input. Fraesfield may get water if lines are brought in from Scottsdale, but not Granite Mountain as there are no water lines along 136th Street. Granite Mountain will be enlarged and have a horse staging area separated by an island from the rest. This will be good since bikes won't be crossing behind the trailers as we unload horses.

Additional Information

For additional information about the proposed trailhead improvements or the upcoming open houses, please contact City of Scottsdale Senior Trails Planner Scott Hamilton at [480-312-7722](tel:480-312-7722) or SHamilton@ScottsdaleAZ.gov.
<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/construction/fraesfield-and-granite-mountain-trailhead-improvements>



A Fun Little Fact

Did you grow up watching Wile E Coyote and the Roadrunner? Well, all the ACME gimmicks in the world never helped that coyote catch the roadrunner. In truth, a coyote can actually reach a speed of 43 MPH while the roadrunner only reaches a top speed of 20 MPH. However, his zigzag running pattern and the ability to fly probably saves him in the end from that hungry coyote!

The Arizona Horse Council Hosting Conferences in Arizona “Sharing the Trails”

By Jean Anderson

The Arizona Horse Council (AzHC) is hosting the Coalition of State Horse Councils and the National Equestrian Trails Conference (NETC) here in Arizona on November 2nd – 4th, 2018. The theme of the conference is “Sharing the Trails”.

The AzHC has not, as yet, chosen a facility for this conference, but rest assured, we have been visiting facilities in and around the Phoenix area; including Ft. McDowell, the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, the Arizona Grand at South Mountain, and several more. Our committee has been meeting over the past weeks with these venues, talking to them about room rates, conference rooms, meals and more, to present a great conference for people all over the United States to attend! This is the first conference west of Ohio for the NETC. So we’re hoping that having it here in Arizona will attract many equine and trail users to attend the conference, not only from the East but from the West too.

On their web site: <https://natetc.org/>, there is a place to complete a survey on just what you, as trail users, would like to see as topics for our conference. I would appreciate it very much if you could not only fill out the survey but share this site as well. We’re trying very hard to have interesting topics and speakers who would be of interest to you, the trail user.

So, keep these dates in mind: November 2nd – 4th, 2018.

Cowboy College

By Lori Bridwell

June is really heating up here at Arizona Cowboy College!

We just kicked off our first week of our Buckaroo Summer Camp and we are offering 4 more sessions throughout the summer months.

For the first time ever we will also be holding an “Intro to 3-Day Eventing Mini Camp.” We will be introducing kids to the wonderful and exciting sport of 3-day eventing. This mini camp will focus on all aspects including dressage, horse prep and conditioning, understanding cross-country jumping course walk, and understanding of the obstacles and rider position.

This summer we are also embarking on the up and coming sport of Western dressage. We have 4 new students who will be making their debut in the Western dressage show ring.

Visit us online www.arizonacowboycollege.com

Stop by and see us and our new crop of baby calves!

Arizona Cowboy College
Lorill Equestrian Center
30208 N. 152nd St.

480-471-3151 info@cowboycollege.com



RVHA SPRING DANCE

By Carmela Lizzo

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RVHA EVENT!

The Welcome to Spring Dinner/Dance in March at the Rural Metro fire station was a whole lot of fun, had great food and good dancing! Guests enjoyed a catered Mexican buffet and music by Down Home AZ. The station was beautifully decorated and set up by Jayne Vatcher with Creative Events and firemen serving food added to the ambiance. We had approximately 80 members and guests attend to catch up with old neighbors and make new friends.

The RVHA Board of Directors wishes to thank:

Carmela Lizzo, our social chair, for her exceptional planning and preparation. Additional thanks go out to Terry Stecyk for arranging a wonderful assortment of silent auction items; Jayne Vatcher of Creative Events for supplying the tables, chairs and decorations; Down Home Arizona for providing the music; Rural Metro and Tom Marchant for providing the venue; and, those super firemen who served us dinner with such friendly smiles.



Much appreciation to those who helped clean up afterwards!

THANK YOU to our local friends for their generous donations to our silent auction. We raised \$1,025, plus an additional cash donation of \$250 from Bonnie and Ron Burke for Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.

Desert iNet - 1-year subscription of services

John and Mo Wachman - Impact drill set

Scottsdale Livestock - An assortment of horse items

Lisa Coffman, Sun Kissed - Customized facial

Cave Creek Outfitters - Trail ride and cowboy games for 2

Tonto Verde Mesquite Grill - \$100 gift card

Lee and Julie Prosser, The Light Benders - Welcome flagstone sign

Bonnie and Ron Burke, ReMax Fine Properties - Native Desert Trees - Mesquite Tree



Stay tuned for our fall event schedule which will be sent out via the email alert. And, as always, if you're interested in helping out with social activities, or have suggestions for future events, please email Carmela at carmelalizzo@gmail.com.

Save these dates!

The RVHA Social Committee is planning these 3 GREAT events for fall. Details will be sent via email and posted on our Facebook page.

September 30th - End of Summer BBQ and Potluck. American Traditions will play throughout the evening.

November 5th - Family picnic and tour of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

December 16th - Bus Tour of Christmas Lights

Discovery and Healing Through the Horses of Reigning Grace Ranch

By Amanda Moore

Horses have an extraordinary way of peeling back layers to a child, to help them discover where their pain stems from. The ranch had gotten a call about a beautiful horse that was well conditioned in stature, that was left overnight, and abandoned in a barn. With no name, age or history left behind, we picked up this mysterious mare and brought her to the ranch. After a few weeks of observation and work, we placed her into the program.

The very first session was with a hurting young teen who immediately sought this mare out because of her beauty and confidence. I suppose she saw something in this horse that she wished she saw in herself. While in the round pen and hearing this little mare's story, this young girl broke down in tears and angrily yelled, "Why on earth would anybody ever abandon this horse and leave her for nothing? She is beautiful and perfect. Only ugly and worthless things are left behind."

You see, in that moment, I realized that this beautiful teen, revealed how she felt about herself and why she was left and abandoned by the person who was supposed to love her unconditionally. Quietly, my response to her was, "They didn't deserve you."

Our children have incredible stories, our horses have incredible stories, and together they develop a true relationship that conquers fears and old lies to become what neither thought they could ever become, worthy.

Our volunteer staff guide and rudder these beautiful opportunities and often times the volunteers receive so much more out of the experiences than they feel they give.

At Reigning Grace Ranch, we have many volunteer opportunities from community gardening, mentoring, ranchhand work and administration. Many people ask if they need horse experience to become a mentor. All you need is a heart for people, and we can teach the rest.

If you are interested in coming out, please email us at info@azRGR.org or visit our website at www.azRGR.org



Upcoming 4-H Informational Meeting!

By Tawnya and Kris Lehnen

Please join us on June 29th from 6-7 pm. An informational 4-H meeting will be held at Doc Cavalier Park at Alma School and Dynamite Rd in North Scottsdale. At this meeting we will be covering general 4-H info, introducing your club leaders, gather information from any families interested in joining and discuss the scope of the various projects offered. Please forward to all those you feel would also be interested. We would love to see you all there!



Foal Training

By Soleil Dolce, Arizona Equine Rescue Organization

Throughout the years of running a rescue I have heard the term 'baby' applied to anything from days-old to over 10 year olds. I have learned the term 'baby' is a code word for 'lack of handling or training', regardless of age. For those of you who have been around horses long enough, you know there are code words commonly used, like 'spirited' meaning 'crazy as a loon', and 'really sweet' meaning 'super lame'. In my world 'baby' is an 'oh no!' term meaning that I have a giant, difficult-to-handle horse that is afraid of everything and knows no boundaries. I compare these animals to the ones born in the rescue that are handled properly starting the day they are born; and it makes me think what a disservice we do to so many 'babies' by not performing basic handling at a young age. In our barn, we expect foals to act as close to their adult counterparts in ground manners as is reasonable to expect a young horse to act. In that training, we have found foals are not stressed by the time they are started under saddle. When volunteers ask how we start horses, I will walk them to a horse that hasn't been ridden and put a saddle on, and sit on their back. They gasp and don't believe me when I say the horse hasn't had someone on their back. I point out their training started early so this doesn't stress them out at all by the time we sit in the saddle. We focus on preparing foals for three key areas of training: 1) handling/being touched, 2) equipment acceptance, and 3) doctoring and introduction to new experiences. It takes 10 minutes a day about 3 days a week starting the week they are born to get a well-adjusted youngster. Why is this important? In our experience it sets them up for a much nicer life and better care because well-mannered horses usually end up in nicer homes and stay in those homes.

We recently had a six-day-old baby donkey, Chloe, come to us through an emergency call where she was found abandoned in the desert with a severe wound that had caused her to have septicemia, a deadly infection to a foal. At the time she was brought to us she was so weak that she was very cooperative and easy to handle. As so often happens in these cases, as she started to feel better she acquired more typical baby behaviors that can get out of control quickly. Chloe was no exception to many rescue babies. As she got better, she started dashing out of stall gates, turning around and kicking out in objection to handling, biting when something hurts, and running away when a halter comes out. She was only 38 lbs when she was first brought to the rescue but growing rapidly so she was put into handling exercises right away rather than wait until she was fully grown.



First is accepting touch. She had to be doctored extensively so she was being handled but not always in a pleasant way. Necessary medical procedures are not always pleasant and even with excellent veterinary handling, horses can associate the procedures only with the discomfort. So our first job was to figure out her favorite spots to be rubbed or scratched so that we could use those as our rewards to make handling a positive experience. Next, we started to rub or scratch all areas of her body, and where she reacted negatively we waited for her to relax and quickly rewarded with ear rubs. The key is timing here so we work to get a positive reaction or no reaction, and then reward. Babies have short attention spans so this takes no more than 5 to 15 minutes a day. With Chloe we used ear rubs. We picked up a foot before she objected and set it back down, and then rubbed her ears again. We do this periodically while playing with her so she stays relaxed as we train. In other cases, we also lean over a horse's back, put our arms around girths, approach from both sides, etc., with lots of scratches and ear rubs.



Accepting equipment starts with the halter. Halters should be put on babies right away with lots of positive reinforcement so haltering doesn't become the activity associated with negative things like doctoring. However, my special request, as one who sees terrible things happen to horses when halters are left on, please **DO NOT** leave halters on unattended babies. There really is no reason to do this and the risk to the animal just isn't worth it. The act of putting a halter on and off is an important part of training and bonding so again, use the haltering experience as an excuse to groom or give affection. Chloe thinks haltering means she gets to walk down the breezeway to the hay area and that is good fun to her.

Handling is next. Chloe, a typical donkey, would sink back and brace if she felt the forward pressure of her halter. No problem. Just wait. Eventually she didn't like the slight pressure we held steady on her lead rope and she would launch forward. The minute she moved into the pressure we release all of the pressure we were applying

and continued walking with her. Note we avoid looking back at her when she stops; this tends to be counterproductive. We keep forward pressure and a forward stance, and just wait. It took one consistent walk of applying pressure when she stepped backwards or still, releasing pressure when she walked forward nicely at our side. It didn't take extensive pressure but just enough for her to want to change it. Now we practice short walks each day that is a reward to her exploratory nature. In our barn we always reward the right behaviors with encouraging touch (rubbing ears) and positive words, but we remain silent when we get behaviors we do not want to encourage. That helps horses differentiate and clearly understand when they do the behaviors we desire. We also ask babies to follow us on to different surfaces like pavers, black mats, stepping over poles, etc., all things they would typically be asked to do as an adult. But by doing it when they are young, they become confident in adulthood when working through new experiences. In these stages we always go first and we wait for them to try following with light pressure. Waiting is always faster.



Doctoring is often overlooked in baby training which means that our veterinarians are in more danger working on babies, and our animals are more stressed in already stressful situations. So plan ahead. Obviously, we don't want to harm babies so that they can be doctored but we do want them to get used to sensations commonly done when they need medical attention. Start easy with listening to their heart and getting them familiar with the stethoscope. Next, taking temperatures is obviously a common need so in this process we start with rewarding touch (scratching Chloe's tail dock) and finish with rewarding touch. Taking shots can be very challenging with babies so we often pinch the neck and then reward scratches. Then we pinch all over with rewards so they get used to the idea of short-term discomfort and learning to tolerate it. Chloe didn't have much choice in her intensive care start but we still had work to do here so that we could help her reduce the anxiety of all her necessary procedures. Those ear rubs and scratches went a long way.

Helping horses learn how to encounter new experiences is important at all ages but if you give a foal steps for confidently understanding new sensations you will find they are much better adjusted as they age in situations that are completely unfamiliar. There is a trick to helping horses build confidence starting with approaching strange or scary objects. Horses process whether they should run or stay in stages starting with their nose. 'Does this object smell dangerous?' Next up is the eyes. 'Does it move or stay still?' Next ears. 'Does it make threatening sounds?' Finally is touch. 'If I touch it, will it attack?' I often see mares actually bite an object and jump back to test if it's going to attack or not. Interestingly, humans tend to leave horses to their own devices to explore a new object. We wait back and send them forward to explore which is NOT the most confidence building method in a horse's mind. A horse thinks 'Why should I approach if my leader won't go near it?' So they often lose confidence as you shove them towards the object. It's important as a horse leader for you to go touch it, pet it, relax by the new object, and lead by example. A sculptor who asked to measure Chloe had calipers and a tape measure. When the calipers came out she wasn't sure if they were going to hurt her. So we touched the calipers all over her, then touched her, and encouraged her to smell and touch the tool. This allowed her to explore after we had given the 'all clear' and she confirmed what we already told her. She is allowed to disagree with our assessment but we can go through the process again until she understands exploring new objects and THEN deciding is the way to handle things rather than not exploring at all, or being asked to explore with no support from her herd member. By the way, when riding, if there is an especially concerning object your horse has spotted, you will get them over it much faster by getting down and going up to the object yourself, and reassuring them to come after you to explore. Sitting on a horse and asking them to go forward while they are anxious is saying 'you first'. In our barn we say 'humans first, horses second,' to apply to all decisions between safety of humans and horses but it applies in leadership principles too.

So what do we do with older 'babies'? The same thing we do with foals, but their reactions at 1000 lbs. are harder to control than the little ones. So why not train your babies when they are 100 lbs to be good citizens and set them up for a much better life? At one-month-old, Chloe knows how to lead, get her feet trimmed, receive doctoring politely, and even play games. She is on an excellent path to be adopted into a wonderful home where her manners will help keep her in a good place.

Editor's note: For more information about AERO, or if you'd like to make a donation, visit their website: <https://www.azequinerescue.org/>

Pollinators are in decline, but you can help!

Center for Native and Urban Wildlife at Scottsdale Community College

Submitted by Natalie Case

Use your yard to attract native pollinators and you will help pollinate native plants and your garden, plus increase biodiversity in your neighborhood.

Why are pollinators all the buzz? According to the USDA and U.S. Forest Service, 75% of the fruits, nuts, and vegetables grown in the United States are bee pollinated. Amazingly, every third bite of food you eat is a product of pollination! Most of our native desert plants are adapted to pollination by native bees.

Bee informed! When asked to think of a bee, most people think of honey and stings, but the social honeybee is just one of many species of bee. Approximately 90% of the 20,000 known species of bees in the world are solitary nesters. The Sonoran Desert alone is home to over 1,000 species of solitary bees, one of the most diverse concentrations in the world.

Don't worry, bee happy. Solitary bees are not aggressive and do not form hives or make honey. They have no drive to defend their nest. You won't need to worry about bee attacks around your solitary bee habitat.

Carpenter Bees



Sweat Bees



Mason Bees



Leafcutter Bees



Digger Bees



Examples of solitary bees include :

Take action! 4 easy steps you can take to help pollinators:

1. Build a bee home. (see instructions below)
2. Stop doing so much yard work. Leave parts of your yard un-manicured. Bare soil provides places for ground nesting bees to dig. Dead tree branches provide nesting places for carpenter bees. Many "weeds" serve as host plants for butterflies and moths, and provide nectar and pollen for bees.
3. Stop using insecticides and herbicides in your yard. They are not good for your family, your pets, or the pollinators. There are many options for less toxic pest control around the home.

Hedgehog Cactus



Ruellia



Creosote

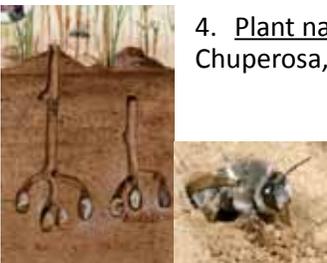


Globe mallow



4. Plant native flowering plants. Favorites include Penstemon, Fairy Duster, Globe Mallow, Creosote, Chuperosa, Ruellia, Yellow Bells, Prickly Pear, Milkweed, and Sunflowers.

How to make nests for native bees



Solitary bee nests are places where female bees can lay their eggs. Adult bees will not form hives or live in the nest. In the city, nest sites can be hard to find. You can help solitary bees by providing nest sites.

1. Bare ground nest sites About 70% of bees species nest in the ground. This is the easiest nest type to provide - just leave places of bare, compacted dirt in your yard. The bees will do all the work. Even pathways will do. They bees will scoot out of the way when you walk by. Avoid heavily watering the area.

2. Bee condos You can buy or re-purpose lumber to make these high density nest sites.

- Do not use chemically treated or freshly cut wood
- Use drill bit sizes 3/32" up to 3/8"
- Do not drill all the way through the wood. Holes should be at least 3" deep. Holes greater than 1/4" diameter should be at least 5" deep.
- Make sure the holes are smooth inside
- You can decorate your post with paint or markers
- Mount the wood slightly above ground in a spot that does not get full afternoon sun.
- If you need to move the post, do not do so until winter
- Bee condos can also be purchased through retailers



3. Dead wood Leave dead trees in place, if safe, or save old stumps and branch trimmings. Carpenter bees will chew their own nests, or you can pre-drill holes for other species. (see Bee Condos)

4. Reed bundles If you grow hollow-stemmed plants like reeds, castor, or bamboo, you can make reed bundles. Cut the reeds behind the joint so that one end is closed. 6-8" lengths are best. Tie them together and set them in place out of afternoon sun where they will not move in the wind. Reed bundles can also be purchased through retailers.

So you built your nest, now what's happening in there? Like butterflies, bees go through a metamorphosis. Most solitary bees live only one year. The female bee gathers pollen and nectar for her offspring to eat and lays an egg on it. She walls off the egg in a chamber where it will grow into an adult bee. She will make many of these chambers. When the young bees are ready to emerge, they will chew their way out of the chamber to become pollinators and start the cycle over.

Important - High density groups of bee larva may attract predatory mites and pathogenic fungi, so it is best to replace your nest materials each season.

Rattlesnake Avoidance Training

By Terry Holmes-Stecyk



We had 46 dogs trained in our March rattlesnake avoidance sessions by repeat trainer, Willow Raven. RVHA hopes to continue bringing great trainers to the area each spring for your convenience and the safety of our much-loved canine partners. Thank you to the Newbury family and Shadow Hill Ranch for the use of their facility.

Here are a few dog owners who shared their thoughts regarding Willow's class:

"Willow was AWESOME! Loved her and the one-on-one training she did."

"Thanks for getting Miley and me into the snake training class. We plan to do it again next year, but hope we do not have any close snake encounters between now and then."

"We thank you the RVHA for providing this very important service. Our dogs did well....we think/hope!!!"

"I just wanted to thank you the RVHA for organizing the snake avoidance training with Willow Raven for residents of Rio Verde. I had my dogs previously snake trained but didn't know if it actually worked until yesterday."

"Willow was awesome and my dogs did great."

trained but didn't know if it actually worked until yesterday."

Rio Verde Foothills Real Estate Update

By the Bonnie Burke Team, RE/MAX Fine Properties North Scottsdale



Stats Run 01/01/2017-05/30/2017

Per the Arizona Regional MLS, January 1st – May 30th of this year, there have been 57 homes sold in the Rio Verde Foothills area. Ranging in price from \$275,000-\$1,325,000. Eight of these homes are new construction homes and 49 have been resale single-family properties. The average sales price for the Rio Verde Foothills year-to-date is approximately \$525,660. Our area is so diverse, each property is custom and unique so we have broken down sales stats by sold price:

Sold Price	Units Sold	SOLD - Price Per SQFT	Average Unit SQFT	Average Days on Market
Less Than \$499,999	37	\$168/sqft	2,572	155
\$500,000-\$699,999	10	\$168/sqft	3,373	158
\$700,000-\$999,999	8	\$199/sqft	4,116	231
\$1 Million +	2	\$217/sqft	5,530	150

*All information from the Arizona Regional MLS is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

For more information or a free home price analysis, call The Bonnie Burke Team – RE/MAX Fine Properties 480-720-8001.



Dogtor T – The Pet Vet

By Melissa Thompson, DVM, CVC

The triple digits are here. Those of us who love the outdoors have started to shift our activities to early morning, sparing ourselves, if possible, from the brutal heat of the afternoon. We hear plenty of advisories about protecting ourselves from the heat. ‘Make sure to drink enough water, stay out of the direct sun, wear sunscreen and protective clothing, etc.’ Most of this should be common sense to us desert dwelling folks by now. But what about our pets?



This time of year, it is not uncommon for veterinarians to treat heat stress or heat stroke in animals on a regular basis. Too many times people forget about their dogs, and even cats, in this hellish weather. Shade and water are super important this time of year. Just because there was shade in your South facing yard when you left in the morning does not mean there will be in the afternoon. Dogs and cats cannot handle heat the same way we can. They are not able to sweat, and they rely on shade, access to water and the ability to pant in order to cool themselves. Ideal temperatures for dogs are in the 70’s. Obviously we get a bit over that in our summer months! Dogs with thicker hair coats, older dogs and brachycephalic (bulldogs, Boxers, and other short muzzled dogs) have even a harder time with extreme temperatures. Signs of heat stress include excessive panting, very red gums, weakness, some may have vomiting and or diarrhea. In severe cases the vomit or diarrhea will be bloody. If your pet shows signs of heat stress, get them to a cool area

ASAP! You can apply wet towels to the pet and use fans to circulate the air around them. Monitoring the rectal temperature is important as well. We can actually make them too cold if we are not paying attention. Normal body temperature for a dog ranges from 99-102. While cooling the dog, it is recommended to seek veterinary care, especially in severe cases. They can die from heat related stress.

Summer is NOT the time of year to be taking your dog places and leaving them in the car. Temperatures in closed cars elevate quickly. Even with the windows cracked, it can get very warm, and there is no good airflow. If the

thought of putting your furry friend in danger isn't enough to sway your plans, how about a ticket from the police department, or a broken car window? ARS 13-2910 states it is illegal to leave an animal "unattended and confined in a motor vehicle when physical injury or death of the animal is likely to result". Just this past year SB1001 passed allowing a Good Samaritan the ability to break a window of a vehicle to save a child or pet that appears to be in distress without civil liability.

Taking pets out on the hot pavement is another big issue this time of year. So many times you see people dragging their dogs out on a walk in the middle of the day, or across the asphalt of a parking lot. While the paw pads are pretty tough, they are no match for the pavement baking in the Arizona sun. The extreme heat can cause severe burns, leading to sloughing of the paw pads. As you could imagine, this is very painful. These dogs will often require bandaging of their feet while growing in new tissue, as well as good pain medication.



While we are on the topic of burns, here is one most people don't think about, the garden hose. Dogs (and children) can get severe burns from the water that



has been sitting in the garden hose on a hot day. Most people don't even think before they try to "cool" their dog off, or give them a bath. This is actually not an uncommon occurrence in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, where the temps get so high. The hose water can reach temperatures well over 120 degrees and can cause 3rd degree burns. Unfortunately we treat a handful of these cases every summer. Below you will see a picture of a case we treated. This is just an example of what a thermal burn looks like. This is very painful for the pet and will require many weeks of treatment. In many cases, the skin is permanently damaged and the hair will not grow back.

As the temps continue to bake us here in the desert, don't forget about our furry companions. They rely on us to help keep them safe!

Magic Water

By Leslie Nichols

I created this recipe years ago to help my horses drink water when they needed to be rehydrated. I've posted it several times on my personal and business Facebook pages and have received reports from horse owners all over the world who have used this recipe (often putting their own spin on it) with great success. I've even had a few people tell me that it was the key to pulling through difficult colic situations.

Hydration is especially important for our desert horses, as we all know. Our horses cannot drink too much water, especially in the brutally hot temperatures in the month of June that seem to take all of us, and our horses, by surprise.

My recipe, Magic Water, works best with horses that you know are dehydrated, but have not shown colic symptoms yet, or horses that are coming out of a colic and need to drink as much water as possible. Horses that are feeling very poorly typically won't eat or drink anything. One of my horses is prone to choke episodes and while it is not recommended that you cause them to drink during a choke episode, after the "stickiness" in his throat has resolved itself, I may give him a bucket of Magic Water to lubricate his throat. Magic water is also excellent to give to horses that are traveling or in other situations where they may become dehydrated. Magic Water is as beneficial as a preventative as a curative!

Many horses, not all, will drink Magic Water pretty readily. Horses that are feeling well will usually drink it right up, and so it may be advised to introduce it to your horses when they are hydrated so they will remember it and then drink it up when they are not feeling well. You see, once a horse has experienced Magic Water, they will usually drink it readily in the future because they know what it is. I've gone years between giving it to the same horse and they recognized it immediately and drank it right up!

Here's my recipe for Magic Water. I've tried different variations over the years, but this basic recipe, for me, has worked best. However, if your horse is turning up his nose to it, don't give up. Use your creativity and find the "magical" recipe for your horse.

Colic Symptoms



Looking or biting at sides
www.extension.umn.edu



Stretching out
www.ocvs.org



Kicking at belly
www.zentenarycollege.edu



Excessive rolling
www.thehorse.com



Pawing
www.fineartamerica.com



Lip curl
www.extension.org



Not eating
www.naturahorse.com



Excessive lying down
www.myhorse.co.uk

In a bucket, you will put a handful or two of some kind of sweetened grain, it can be sweet feed or a pelleted grain that has molasses in it. I've tried other kinds of sweeteners such as apple juice or straight molasses, and they don't work as well because when grain dissolves it fills the water with tiny pieces of it. Then I fill the bucket with water. Right before I put the bucket in front of the horse, I sprinkle whole oats or crimped oats on top of the water. I prefer crimped or rolled oats because they seem to float better than whole oats. You want the oats to float on top, so sprinkle them very carefully so they don't sink immediately. I usually show the horse the bucket and then sprinkle the oats right in front of their muzzle so they will focus on the oats right away.

What the horse will typically do is sniff the water and then realize that there are oats on top and begin to "eat" the water. They will eat/slurp and eat/slurp for a bit and then realize that something else yummy is in the water. They will begin to drink the water to get to it. The more they drink, the sweeter the water and so it is a self-rewarding process. The more clever horses will begin to "head-dive" to the bottom to get the sweet grain which has mostly dissolved into the water. This head-diving stirs up the water well, and now you have a oats-milky, granular-infused yummy water mixture. Usually the horse will drink and dive/eat and drink and dive/eat until they are done with it.

When they finish the first bucket, I then usually make a second bucket and the horse often will drink this as well. For many horses, the Magic Water becomes a self-rewarding game. A few of my horses have a grand old time diving into the water and getting to the good stuff that is often still concentrated on the bottom. Good for their health, and entertaining too!

Testimonial by Terry Holmes-Stecyk .

"Shortly following a few hot early spring days, and an extra-long ride to the river and back, my horse experienced colic for the first time since I have owned him. The on-call emergency vet came, administered a pain killer and sedative, tubed a couple of gallons of electrolytes and mineral oil through his nostril, then told me to watch for oily manure. Twenty four hours later, SUCCESS!!! The vet said his entire Sunday had been full of colic calls, most likely from the change in weather. There was no sand in his gut but he had minimal gut sounds. He asked what I fed and then said perhaps the bermuda hay had caused a slight impaction because he was dehydrated. After sharing my story with other equestrians, Leslie Nichols told me how she keeps her horses hydrated during the hot weather we have now and will have for months. She fills a bucket and adds a bit of Renew Gold and sweet senior feed. At first Cowboy just sniffed the bucket, but once he saw me throw a couple of his cookies in the water, sip, sip, sip... and now I give Magic Water to Cowboy following every long ride I enjoy in the Preserve."

I also give my horse a helping of water-soaked hay through the week. I drill holes in a clean muck bucket and nest

it inside another muck bucket. I fill with hay, wet it heavily, then leave it to soak up enough water to become grass-like again. I lift out the top bucket, allow it to drain, then place it in his feeder. Cowboy loves it and it helps give him the extra hydration I know he needs. PLUS, it removes quite a bit of dirt and dust from our lovely desert and the field it came from. The left over drained water waters the shade tree next to his stall; certainly a win-win for all. If your horse leaves any wet hay at the end of the day, be sure to discard it. Mold can grow quickly in these hot temps.”

Going Where No One Has Gone Before

By Jenny Powers

For those of us with animals in our lives we know that sometimes things don't go exactly as planned. Dreams we had for our horses must be set aside and difficult decisions made about medical care at the same time we are confronted with a diagnosis we never expected. This is a story of one of those times.

Some of you may know my Arabian gelding, Mash. He was a rescue from a neglect and abandonment situation and given to me by an endurance riding friend in Yuma. He was intended to be a companion to my endurance horse, Twister, and a back-up project for when Twister retired. Mash has been a challenge every step of the way, but I found a trainer who worked well with this volatile little horse. We were making good progress, confidence built and on our way to the goal of driving and pulling a cart.

Last summer Mash developed thickened rear fetlocks that I at first attributed to the heat, extra work in training, hard ground, sand, etc. Nothing in my repertoire of endurance tricks worked in reducing the fetlocks and the horse was mildly uncomfortable at the trot. I called my vet to check on him and Mash was diagnosed last October with degenerative suspensory ligament disease (DSLSD), an inherited condition thought to be an autoimmune disease, progressive and incurable. This was absolutely not what I anticipated and I was devastated as DSLSD ultimately results in euthanasia. It's just a matter of time.

Cave Creek Equine offered an option of experimental stem cell therapy with no guarantee of success, in fact the format used on Mash had not previously been attempted. I decided to give Mash this chance at a useful life, and contribute to medical science as well. CCE knows of no other facility offering DSLSD therapy at this time.

At Mash's 3-month checkup in January he showed progress, degeneration halted, 50% improvement overall and a grade 2 lameness on the left rear fetlock, the area most affected by the degeneration. His rehab was expanded from hand walking to increasing time on the lunge line at the trot. He has shown no signs of relapse.

In May we had our 6-month check-up. He is now grade 1 on the left rear fetlock and pronounced sound by the vet. She said he appears as sound as many performance horses they see. He has regained curve in the hock (hocks become straight as the disease progresses) and has lift and suspension at the trot. He is pain free to palpation of the suspensory body, branches and distal sesmoid ligaments in both hind legs. Mash is the first horse with DSLSD that they have recommended be ridden after the diagnosis. He is one of 2 horses undergoing this therapy and is about 4 months ahead of the second horse. I am pleased that we can offer hope to the other owner going through this experience and encouragement to those considering the decision to try.

My vet has plans to write a journal paper on this therapy once another horse joins the program (2 is good, but 3 is more confirmation of the success).

If we have no relapse, Mash will once again be on track for driving training and eventually walk/trot pulling a cart on good surfaces (no sand). He will have a useful life and be pain free.

In a recent conversation with an endurance rider friend, we talked of the decisions we make regarding horse health care and how to make those decisions. I am blessed to be able to afford Mash's treatment and I realize that finances often dictate what we can or cannot attempt. I truly appreciate all the support and encouragement from my horse community and we look forward to the next 6 months of rehab and an eventual return to training.

Stay tuned for updates on Mash's progress.



Wildlife Rehabilitation – Not for Everyone

By Gail Cochrane, Submitted by Liberty Wildlife



Since moving to a sparkling new facility, Liberty Wildlife has been making new neighbors and new friends. Tours are popular and newcomers are always dazzled to find themselves eye-to-eye with a wild animal. There is really nothing like it. Some folks may even imagine they could do this themselves, maybe raising a fuzzy baby barn owl, or one of those adorable bunnies for a pet.

Well, I'm here to tell you, it's not as easy as Liberty Wildlife makes it look. First off, all wild birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Did you know it's illegal to even have a wild bird's feather in your possession? Under the law, you may not pursue, hunt, shoot, poison, capture or collect any wild bird, including nests and eggs. These laws protect wildlife from well-meaning and sometimes not so well-meaning

folks who would mess with vulnerable wild animals. Let's face it, sometimes in our enthusiasm and love for nature we want to have and hold nature. This is not a good idea.

Wild animals do not make good pets. When taken out of the wild setting and wild rearing that they have adapted to over many thousands of generations wildlife is fundamentally altered. Hand-raised wild animals are no longer truly wild, and will never be truly tame. They will always be unpredictable and unreliable. The wild birds that make up the Liberty Wildlife education team are handled daily by trainers who have gone through intensive training themselves, to ensure smooth presentations to the public, and lack of injury or incident in transit.



Wild animals require a wild diet to thrive. This food is not available at Petco. Wild animals such as raptors need to eat whole prey; including the guts, sinew, blood and bones. Liberty Wildlife has some unfortunate "lifers" at the facility that were kept by humans as babies and fed incomplete diets. These raptors suffer from a condition known as bendy bone, a severe malformation of their skeletal structure. This cruel fate ensures they will never fly again.



The most common instance of a person "adopting" a wild animal, such as an owl or a kestrel, happens when they find a fledgling on the ground. Fledglings may be grounded for a few days while they develop those last feathers or skills that will allow flight. The parents are still in the vicinity feeding their young and looking out for them. But if Joe Human comes along and finds this fuzzy adorable baby great horned owl and decides to take it home and raise it, he is not only breaking the law, he is dooming the animal.

Maybe after a couple of days of constant care Joe Human comes to his senses and brings the owl to licensed, professional rehabilitators such as the folks at Liberty Wildlife. Irreparable damage has already been inflicted. Aside from dietary issues, a

baby raptor will imprint on a human speaking to and feeding it. This can happen in a matter of days and causes the wild bird to lose its ability to recognize its own species, and thus to survive in the wild.

Wildlife rehabilitators feed baby raptors with hand puppets that look like its parents. They wear camouflage that covers their faces and they never speak to the babies they are feeding. They provide prey that is suitable and

specific to the dietary requirements of the animal. They raise the young to be wild and success is measured by how many go back out into their natural habitat to raise young and to perpetuate their kind.

In a harsh environment such as the desert, or urban settings such as Phoenix and her sister cities, wild animals have great obstacles to overcome. We are fortunate to have a thriving wildlife rehabilitation facility we can call on if we find an injured wild animal. We are wise when we keep that number handy and dial it immediately. (480) 998-5550.

For more information on Liberty Wildlife, visit their website at www.libertywildlife.org.

Time is Running Out for Seniors to Buy a \$10 Lifetime Pass to National Parks

By Carmela Lizzo

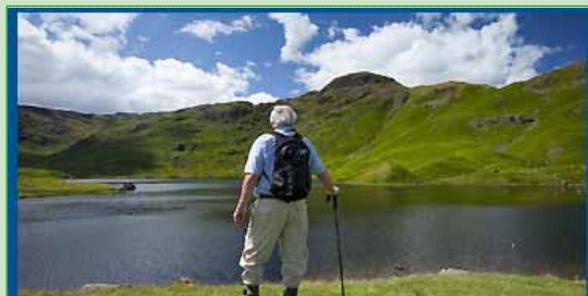
Folks age 62 and older who love America's national parks and monuments can purchase a lifetime pass for \$10, but that bargain won't last much longer. The cost of a National Park Service lifetime pass will increase to \$80, but just when that price hike will occur is unclear. When enacted, it will be the first increase since 1994.

The senior pass offers lifetime admission to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Pass holders also get 50 percent off certain National Park Service fees, including camping, swimming, boat launch and other services.

At \$10, the pass is an incredible bargain. At \$80, it's still a great deal. Admission to Grand Canyon National Park, for example, is \$30 for seven days.

The senior pass isn't the only deal the park service offers. Other bargains include:

- Annual pass: Available to anyone for \$80.
- Military pass: Free annual pass for current military members (including reserve and National Guard members).
- Fourth Grader pass: Free to U.S. fourth-grade students (and accompanying family) from the start of the school year through the following summer.
- Access pass: Free to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have permanent disabilities.
- Volunteer pass: Free to volunteers with 250 hours of service to participating federal agencies.



When asked about the reasons for the fee increase and when it would occur, NPS spokesman Tom Crosson said it was "congressionally mandated" and the date it would take place has not been determined.

Last December Congress approved the National Parks Service Centennial Act, which included a provision to raise the fee. Proceeds will fund park projects and services.

You can find details at www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm.