



FEB - MARCH 2021



# NEWSLETTER



**NURSING HOME UPDATE FROM**  
**CMS**  
**CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

In March, Federal officials issued new recommendations to nursing homes that are aimed at making it easier for residents to visit, hug and hold hands with their loved ones after almost a year of isolation.

CMS officials noted that the threat of COVID-19 infection hasn't evaporated. They encourage facilities, residents and loved ones to conduct visits outside when possible and to keep family members and their guests distanced from other residents and staff members or indoors unless certain situations would prevent visitations.

So, we are not out of the woods yet and the elder care facilities are all in various stages of readiness. Some may have all of their residents vaccinated while some may still be experiencing outbreaks.

With all of that said, we hope to be able to plan a Fall outing, since we were unable to have our annual event at the Pyle Center.

Finally, if you plan to continue your visits once facilities are ready, we will need your **current veterinarian health check up form**. We also need a **current renewal form**, *even though the 2021 pet therapy fees were waived*, the forms are still required. These forms are available on the CAAA website. Just click on this link or cut/paste it into your browser:

<https://www.caaainc.org/forms.html>

Some facilities are slowly starting to open up and resume volunteer activities, including pet therapy visits. With that said, we ask that you follow CDC guidelines regarding visiting as well as any COVID-19 Policies and Procedures that are in place with the agency in which you visit. Further, if your facility is ready to resume visits, please only visit if you are comfortable with the situation and the policies that are in place. Everyone's health and safety is most important.

We are requiring a signed COVID waiver before continuing visits. This form along with directions for submittal of all forms has been emailed to all members. Updates through email will be sent as more information is available.

We hope everyone is well and we all look forward to getting back to our pet therapy visits.



*Remember When....*

*Simon & Jodi  
 during one of their visits  
 in late 2019*

The CAAA Board and Pet Therapy Committee



## A Social Pet Therapy Program

THE COMPANION  
ANIMAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ARIZONA, INC.

P.O. Box 5006

Scottsdale, AZ.

85261 - 5006

Phone (602)

258-3306

<http://www.caaainc.org>



## OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality  
of lives of people by  
promoting the  
Human/Companion  
Animal Bond and to  
provide support when  
the bond is broken.



"Sometimes my dog  
winks at me. I always  
wink back in case it's  
some kind of code."

~Unknown~



VOL. 21 - No. 02

# What Have You Been Up to Lately?

With visiting on "hold" for now, here is what a few of our  
therapy teams have been doing.



*Gail Peterson - Crystal has been getting her exercise and is ready  
to travel in anticipation of returning to therapy work.*

*What are your  
therapy dogs doing to  
fill their spare time  
while visiting has been  
on "hold"? We would  
love to hear from you  
also. Send your pictures  
and information to  
Jackie at:  
[redpath808@gmail.com](mailto:redpath808@gmail.com)*



*Deb Zapusek - Porscha hiking  
in Superior with relatives  
from Tuscon.*



# *Heroes Come in All Sizes*

## *More than a Ton of Love in Just Four Pounds*



MacKenzie, a six year old four pound Chihuahua rescue from Hilton, NY has been named the country's most heroic canine at the 2020 American Humane Hero Dog Awards Celebration. Her first step on the way to this national title was winning top spot in her category, "Hero Shelter Dog of the Year", before moving on and winning the main event.

Sue Rogers, MacKenzie's handler, says "On December 31, 2013, an amazing dog named MacKenzie (Kenz for short) was born with a cleft palate. I got her when she was one day old." Sue runs The Mia Foundation and cares for not just dogs but all kinds of animals with birth defects that are unwanted and would otherwise be euthanized. "Kenz was tube-fed from day one and survived several bouts of aspiration pneumonia. At almost one year of age she had her life-saving cleft palate surgery. She could eat and drink on her own for the first time in her short life. I have never seen such a will to live."

Even when Kenz was sick Sue noticed that her tiny Chihuahua was always more concerned with the other animals at the rescue. "Most of the rescued animals that come to the Mia Foundation are babies and because of their serious medical conditions they cannot stay with their mothers. MacKenzie has always taken an interest in each baby from the time they arrived, no matter the species or size and she would start mothering them. She plays nurse and cleans, comforts, and cuddles them. She acts as their mother while she also teaches them how to socialize and play. She has comforted countless puppies, kittens, a baby goat, a turkey, a squirrel, birds, a mouse, and despite her tiny size, even a Great Dane. MacKenzie uniquely represents a rescue hero because she went from being a rescue dog to helping hundreds of other rescue animals."

MacKenzie also has a second and just as important a hero role; she visits and interacts with children at their schools in her community where she raises awareness about animals with disabilities. This helps them learn to accept physical differences in not just animals but also people. Kenz is a prime example of how kindness and patience can make a difference to others no matter how small you are.

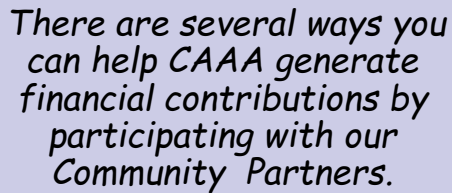
The Hero Dog Awards are sponsored by American Humane. Since 1877's the organization's mission has been to ensure the safety, welfare and well-being of animals. The President and CEO, Dr. Robin Ganzert, explains that the "Hero Dog Awards were created to honor some of our most extraordinary heroes and the extraordinary acts of heroism performed by ordinary dogs." Winners in all seven categories and the top category of Hero of the Year are chosen by a combination of public votes and voting by a panel of animal advocates and celebrity judges. The award presentations were televised nationally this past October on cable TV. MacKenzie has now been able to add another title to her already impressive resume - Celebrity.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Sue and MacKenzie with another resident of the Mia Foundation*





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- A photograph of two small dogs sitting side-by-side in a blue stroller. On the left is a Papillon with large, fringed ears and a black and white coat. On the right is a Yorkshire Terrier with long, straight, light-colored hair. Both dogs are looking towards the camera. The stroller has a blue canopy and is parked on a grassy area.



Cision News Wire - <https://www.prnewswire.com>  
Spectrum News - <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/>  
Westside News - <https://westsidenewsnv.com/>

# *More* A Few Lesser Known (But Very Interesting) Facts About Dogs



## ***A dog's whiskers are like radar detectors***

Found on the muzzle, above the eyes or below the jaws these are technically known as vibrissae. These specialized hairs aid vision and help a dog navigate his environment by providing additional sensory input much like antennae on insects. They don't actually feel anything, they simply transmit information to sensory cells when they detect objects or movement.

*(Source: VCA Website )*

## ***A "WHISKERED" CHEYENNE***

## ***The Australian Shepherd***

An intelligent working dog with strong herding and guarding instincts, these dogs make loyal companions. But did you know that the breed is not actually from Australia; they are an American breed.

*(Source: AKC Website)*

## ***AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD LADY***



## ***Dogs can sniff at the same time as breathing***

As you know, dogs rely a lot on their sense of smell to find food, potential dangers, and friends, so needless to say they sniff a lot. Their noses are designed so smells can stay in their nose while air can move in and out of their lungs at the same time, which means they can breathe freely and still work out what that smell is!

*(Source: PDSA Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals)*

## ***SINDERS - IS SHE SNIFFING OR BREATHING?***



# ELECTED MAYOR FOR LIFE !

Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller II is known as Mayor Max II in Idyllwild, California, the town which was the first to elect a dog for mayor. He is the second and current Mayor of Idyllwild.

Mayoral elections started in Idyllwild in 2012 when the town held a fundraiser for the local animal rescue non-profit organization, Idyllwild Animal Rescue Friends (ARF). As Idyllwild is an unincorporated town, it has no local government so town residents held an election where people could run their pets as candidates for mayor. You had to be a local resident to enter a dog or cat and people could vote with their dollars; \$1 per vote. Fourteen dogs and two cats ran, and Max, a Golden Retriever, was elected as its first mayor and took office in 2013. Phyllis Mueller was his human companion, or owner as some residents say. "We promoted the election as one you can actually buy, and we encouraged everyone to vote a lot. The election was a success and raised \$31,000" Mueller says.

Unfortunately the first Mayor Max died while in his second term. "My heart was broken and so was the town's," Phyllis says. She felt it was important to find just the right successor and started a long search for another Golden within the same blood line. She found one and Maximus Mighty Dog Mueller II arrived to complete the remainder of the term but only after Idyllwild ARF approved his mayoral transition plan.

He may have been a young politician beginning his term at only 11 weeks old but his constituents loved and trusted him so much that in March 2014 as the end of Max's term approached, ARF solicited the town's interest in holding another election. The people overwhelmingly pled for Mayor Max's continuation in perpetuity. So he was officially appointed *Mayor for Life*. Mayor Max II is actually now recognized by the County of Riverside, California.

Phyllis answers her phone with the greeting, "Office of the mayor," and calls herself his chief of staff. She says "The Mayor's duties include visiting with locals and out-of-town visitors, attending business grand openings and other town functions, being in the town's two annual parades, and promoting Idyllwild. He also makes personal appearances, including in the town square at schools, hospitals and nursing homes. He even makes house calls to those in need". Every weekend, and some weekdays, you can find The Mayor in the back of his pickup truck, wearing a tie and sometimes a hat, barking greetings to his constituents.

His notoriety has spread the world over. He has appeared on news programs, talk shows, advertisements, billboards, and a game show in the interest of the town. He even has his own website where any visitor to the town can request a meeting with Mayor Max. Phyllis said he's hard working "But being mayor has gone to his head a little because at times while driving through town he will insist on stopping and getting an ice cream cone."

As for a future administrative agenda, his Chief of Staff says "The Mayor wants to help make the world a better place." If Idyllwild is an example, he is well on his way!

Sources for this article:

<https://www.mayormax.com/>

Wikipedia search "Mayor Max"

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/>





CAAA

BULLETIN BOARD

**REMEMBER** to submit a current renewal form. *Even though the 2021 pet therapy fees were waived, the forms are still required.*

COMPANION ANIMAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL 20\_\_

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING/RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND CONTINUING YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**COVID-19 SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
LIABILITY WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS  
Companion Animal Association of AZ., Inc.**

**COVID-19 SAFETY INFORMATION:**

COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is spread mainly by person-to-person contact. While participating in activities sponsored by Companion Animal Association of AZ., Inc. (CAAA), I will observe CDC recommendations for "social distancing" and wearing a face covering at all times. CAAA cannot guarantee that I will not contract COVID-19.

If I fall within any of the categories below, I will not participate in CAAA events or face-to-face CAAA Activities, I certify that I do not fall into any of the following categories:

1. Individuals who currently or within the last 14 days have been diagnosed with COVID-19, like fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
2. Individuals who are currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

**REMEMBER** to submit a COVID-19 waiver form

COMPANION ANIMAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.  
P.O. BOX 5006 • SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA • 85261-5006 • (602) 258-3306

**ANNUAL VETERINARY HEALTH CHECK-UP**

NAME OF OWNER (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ DOG \_\_\_\_\_ CAT \_\_\_\_\_ BREED \_\_\_\_\_  
PET NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTH DATE OR AGE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR VETERINARIAN**

NAME OF VETERINARIAN \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF EXAMINATION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRES \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
RABIES - - - DATE VACCINATION GIVEN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE VACCINATION GIVEN \_\_\_\_\_  
LEUKEMIA <mandatory for cats only> - - - Y or N (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_  
OR LEUKEMIA <cats only> - - - Y or N (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_  
FECAL EXAM (MANDATORY) DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**REMEMBER:** If you plan to continue visits once facilities are ready, we will need your current veterinarian health check up form

**CAAA  
2021**

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&  
BOARD  
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ANY COMMENTS,  
PICTURES,  
SUGGESTIONS, OR  
INPUT FOR FUTURE  
NEWSLETTERS?

SEND THEM TO:

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