



From the San Joaquin County Sheriff (An awesome testament to microchipping!)

Sometimes life shows us hope in many ways. Yesterday was one of those days.

Meet Razzle. This little guy went missing from his home...wait for it...in Texas 10 years ago! (See original FB post from 2011)

Yesterday, he was lucky to cross paths with our animal control officers who found him to be microchipped. They were able to locate his original owners who were in disbelief at the news of Razzle being found. They are making arrangements to have him transported back to Texas.

Stories like this don't happen every day but they sure pull at our heart strings. We wish Razzle the very best!

This is a great reminder to microchip your pet. Though collars and ID tags can be helpful, they aren't always a reliable form of identification since they can easily fall off or become hard to read over time, leaving your beloved pet among the other unidentified lost strays at shelters. This can easily be prevented by the use of microchips which provides your pet with permanent identification.

#reunitedanditfeelssogood
#razzle
#feelgoodstory

★ Favorites · April 18, 2011 · 🗨

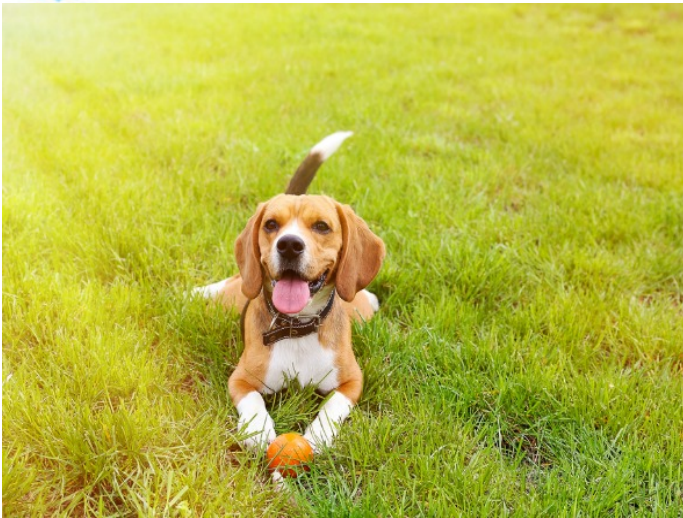
Our Black Miniature Schnauzer went missing Saturday Morning, April 9, 2011, he was last seen around Wagon Train Rd. His name is Razzle and he is 6 years old. If you see him please contact us. Thanks



Health tips by
Doc Hopper



Heat Stroke in Dogs



Heat Exhaustion, Hyperthermia in Dogs

Dog fur is great protection against the cold but can be a problem in hot weather. This is because, unlike humans, dogs eliminate heat by panting. (Dogs have some sweat glands in the footpads which help with heat dissipation, but only minimally.) When panting isn't enough, their body temperature rises. This can be fatal if not corrected quickly.

What To Watch For

Excessive panting and signs of discomfort indicate overheating. However, it is important to be aware of the ambient temperature and take appropriate preventative measures.

Primary Cause

Any hot environment can cause heatstroke, but the most common cause is careless actions such as leaving a dog in a car on a hot day or forgetting to provide shade to an animal kept outdoors.

Immediate Care

It is essential to remove the dog from the hot environment immediately. If it is unconscious, make sure no water enters the nose or mouth as you follow these guidelines. Also, do not give the dog aspirin to lower its temperature; this can lead to other problems.

1. Put your dog in the bath tub.
2. Run a cool (not cold) shower over your pet, covering the whole body -- especially the back of the head and neck.
3. Allow the water to fill up the bathtub as you shower the dog. Keep the head elevated to prevent aspiration pneumonia.
4. If getting the dog into the tub is impractical, use a garden hose to cool the dog or place him in a pool of cool water.
5. Apply a cold pack to the dog's head to help lower his body temperature -- a packet of frozen vegetables works fine.
6. Massage the legs. A vigorous rubbing helps the dog's circulation and reduces the risks of shock.
7. Let the dog drink as much cool or cold water as it wants. Adding a pinch of salt to the water bowl will help the dog replace the minerals it lost through panting.

The following steps should be taken, regardless of whether the dog is conscious, appears to recover well, or was only mildly affected:

1. Check for signs of shock.
2. Take the dog's temperature every five minutes, continuing water-cooling until it drops below 103°F (39.4°C).
3. If the dog's temperature drops a little more – to around 100°F (37.8°C) – don't worry. A slightly low temperature is a lot less dangerous.
4. Treat for shock if necessary.
5. Get immediate veterinary attention. Heatstroke can cause unseen problems, such as swelling of the brain, kidney failure, and abnormal clotting of blood. On the way to the veterinarian, travel with the windows open and the air conditioner on.

Veterinary Care

Treatment will consist mostly of replacing lost fluids and minerals. This may extend to secondary conditions, which your vet will be able to identify. Intravenous fluid therapy and monitoring for secondary complications such as kidney failure, development of neurologic symptoms, abnormal clotting, changes in *blood pressure*, and electrolyte abnormalities are typically recommended in cases of heatstroke.

Other Causes

Dogs with thick fur, short noses, or those suffering from medical conditions such as laryngeal paralysis and obesity are

predisposed to heatstroke. In addition, dogs that enjoy constant exercise and playtime -- such as working dogs (Labradors, Springer Spaniels, etc.) -- should be closely monitored for signs of overheating, especially on hot days.

Prevention

Heat stroke can be prevented by taking caution not to expose a dog to hot and humid conditions. This is especially applicable for dogs with airway diseases and breeds with shortened faces (e.g., the Pug, Bulldog, Shi Tzu). Also, while traveling in cars, make sure that the dog is well ventilated by placing it in a wired cage or in an open basket, and never leave your dog in a car with the windows closed, even if the car is parked in the shade. When outdoors, always make sure your dog is in a well-ventilated area with access to plenty of water and shady spots.

Source: PetMD

Cynthia secretly regretted her previous unholy union with the Sea Creature; but Baby Catopus was hers, and she would love him regardless.



Today I Adopted a Human

“Today I adopted a human. It broke my heart to see him so lonely and confused. And suddenly I got his teary eyes to meet mine. I don't like the smell of sad. I wanted to jump on him so bad. He spoke to me with cuteness and I knew it, I just had to rescue him! That human needed me. So, I barked with all my strength, and I followed him blocks and blocks.

I got close; I could smell his hands. The human smiled for an instant and when he took me in his arms, I started to feel his ice cream heart warmed. I approached his cheeks and felt a tear roll on them. I looked at him deeply and his response was a brilliant smile. I jumped excited into his arms. I promised to behave, love him forever and never part from his side.

How lucky he was to go through that block, down that street and I feel lucky too.

There were so many people walking around and no one was looking at me. All worried, all in their own troubles. Glad no one else chose me. Today I saved a life. Today I adopted a human” 🐾 🐾 🐾

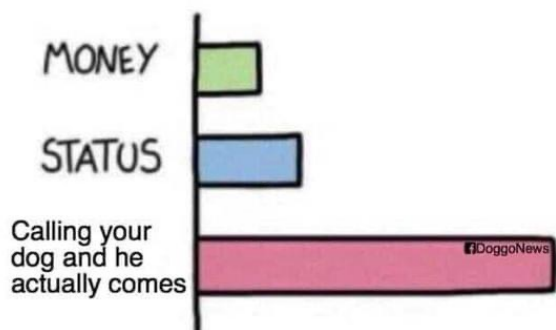
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Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer Hours	Adoptions
May	190.0	3
June	248.0	5
July	320.0	7
Total	758	15

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



Grommit

June 30, 2021

Grommit, the famous Amador County Library and Therapy dog, died June 30, 2021, at the age of 16. Named after the dog in the animated TV series, Wallace and Grommit, Grommit had a calm and steady presence.

Seeing Grommit greet residents at a skilled nursing facility, local dog trainer Margaret Blair, called Grommit a “natural,” and trained him as a therapy dog. Grommit’s career as a therapy dog included going to skilled nursing facilities, soothing college students studying for exams, and cheering tired firefighters.

However, Grommit found his true niche working with children at the Jackson and Plymouth Libraries. Grommit worked for 5 years at the library and became a beloved figure in the community. In his heyday, he was in the newspaper, mentioned on the radio, and on special occasions even had his own parking place at the library.

He loved children of all ages, from the youngest to high school students. Very young children learned “dog etiquette,” such as asking “May I pet your dog?” before touching, as well as learning how to pet Grommit softly.

Slightly older children read books for the first time in front of a nonjudgmental and attentive Grommit. Junior high and high schoolers drew pictures of Grommit, which were framed and displayed at the library. Some children wrote poems to him and a talented library staffer wrote rap songs about Grommit which were sung and performed.

He was known for his flair in wearing costumes of all kinds. The children particularly liked his Cat in the Hat outfit, worn on Dr. Seuss’s birthday, his Halloween pumpkin garb, his Minion and Yoda outfits, his Super Dog costume complete with red a cape and a “G” for Grommit, and of course his Santa Clause outfit and reindeer costume with lights.

Always ready to celebrate the holidays, Grommit signed Christmas and Valentine’s Day cards to the children with his paw. Dog Biscuit Day was a holiday created in his honor by library staff. Many local store keepers had pictures of Grommit in their stores, and gave him special treats when he visited. He truly loved being of service and he loved all those connected with his work.

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye. He was a dog that gave unconditional love and support. A dog who loved all of us and our children. A dog who instinctively knew he could provide a service. Grommit was, and always will be, the dog who loved to teach — a true Hometown Hero. And

hopefully, maybe, just maybe, Grommit will live on in this story and in the hearts of the children and a community that will read and tell the tale of Grommit for years to come.

Grommit donning his Cat in the Hat outfit.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grommit was adopted from the Calaveras Animal Services Shelter about 15 years ago and Debby said he was named by Ed Ransom! What a wonderful life he ended up living!

Arnold Parade

Rocking green FOCAS t-shirts, volunteers participated in the Arnold 4th of July parade this past weekend, handing out swag and enjoying a fun day in the mountains. Want to join FOCAS and help the shelter animals? We can always use more volunteers, or if that is not your cup of tea, you could make a donation.

<https://focasweb.com/ways-to-help/>



CAR TEMPERATURE PET SAFETY CHART

**How long does it take
for a car to get HOT?**

Outside Temp (F)	Inside Temp (F)	
	10mins	30mins
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°

**WITHIN MINUTES
INTERIOR
CAR TEMPS
CAN BE DEADLY!**

VeterinaryClinic.com



A huge THANK YOU to Anne Ellis for providing all the Car Temperature Pet Chart handouts for the Independence Parade in Arnold! These are invaluable and her generosity is greatly appreciated.

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw that it was good. On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did? And God, again saw that it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed that it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay? " "Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play, and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me, I will be on the front porch!

Cherish Your Dog

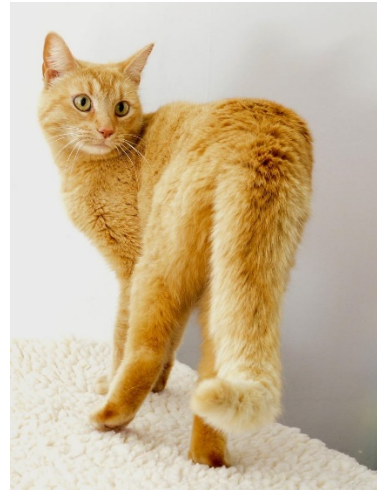
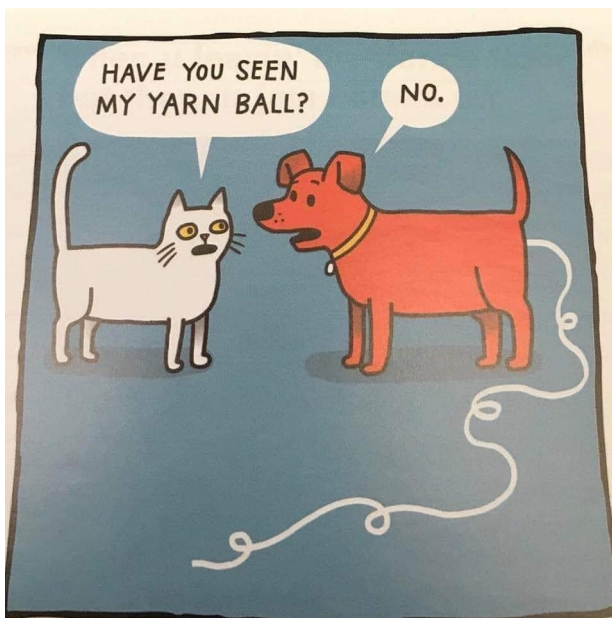
From Town and Country Pet Resort

Nobody tells you how quickly dogs age. How one day, you wake up and suddenly their muzzle is a little whiter than it used to be. How they seem to get up a little slower than before, or how you have to say their name a few more times than you usually do.

Everyone says if you have children not to blink otherwise, you'll miss everything, but what about the dog? What about the dog that was with you before children were even a thought? The dog that loved you before you found love? We are rarely ever told to cherish every moment we have with them.

Cherish your dog. Cherish the dog that's been by your side through every break up; the one that's bounced around with you from home to home during your college days; the one that sleeps in your bed and keeps you from feeling lonely; the one who knows all your secrets. Cherish him because one day, you'll take him on that walk, you'll notice that he'll get tired way before you do and it's then that you'll realize just how many years he's been walking beside you . . . 🐾🐾🐾

(Written by our friend Meagan Sullivan)



Amber Rose

By Mari Shine

With all the adorable adoptable cats and kittens that come through Animal Services, who would believe that one orange tabby cat could cause such a stir?

Such was the case with Amber Rose, who got caught in a tug of war of sorts!

On a Monday a few weeks ago, a cat volunteer got a call from a woman wanting to adopt Amber. She and her husband had recently lost their cat due to old age and they were missing having the company and a kitty to love. Both are seniors and teachers working from home, so they have lots of time to spend breaking in their new girl and preferred an older cat.

They were so excited about adopting her that they bought cat food, a new litter pan and cat carrier. A meeting was scheduled for the next morning, Tuesday, so they could meet and adopt Amber Rose!

Would you believe that within 30 minutes the phone rang again? Turns out Amber Rose was really Ginger, and her concerned owner had seen the posting for her online. He and his family had already driven to the shelter. He had all of her paperwork, her age, and the date she went

missing. All of it matched with the County's information.

The shelter was closed, but staffer Mona allowed them to see her anyway. According to Mona, she was obviously their cat. The ordinarily shy shelter guest was all over the woman and it was quite the joyous and tearful reunion. Arrangements were made for them to take her home the next morning.

But what about the couple who were also coming Tuesday morning? Our cat volunteer called them and explained the situation and let them know that there were other adult cats available. She suggested they wait until the other family had taken Amber Rose/Ginger home and to come by late the next morning.

Everything went off without a hitch. Ginger will never be called Amber Rose again and when the couple arrived at the shelter, they met and fell in love with a beautiful sleek black kitty the shelter named Joanne and renamed Sissy.

Confused yet? Well, all you really need to know is that two adult kitties are now out of the shelter and in their forever homes.

I bought this so that feeding the cats would be easier as each would have its own bowl!



Update on Wild Horses Calaveras Rescued

So often we hear of or are involved in any number of rescue missions. FOCAS pays for food and transport and medical as needed in many of these instances.

But once the animals are adopted or leave the county shelter, we never really know what happens to them, we just pray and hope that they end up in a good situation. On the next page is a great story from Brenda Heintz, regarding the fate of two of these wonderful horses.

Enjoy!

Learning to Trust Again

By Brenda Heintz

In the Fall of 2019, neglected and starving mustangs, horses, mules and donkeys were rescued and seized from a property in Calaveras County, CA. A total of 37 animals spent several months in "protective custody" at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds awaiting their fate.

Some of you may remember: Warrior, (AKA Dante, named by the county employees) was described by his county rescuers as "A Bay Roan Mustang Stallion ~ 8 years old. Dante is a gorgeous, 'typey' Mustang. He is still unhandled but is described as brave, curious, and willing".

And Trooper, (AKA Romeo, named by the county employees) was described by his county rescuers as a "Bay, possible Mustang/Morgan cross Stallion, age currently unknown but young. Romeo is very cute. His pictures don't do him justice. He is small, but we believe that is due to his young age and that he is still growing. He is still fearful of people."

In February, 2020, The Medicine Horse Project (MHP) received a phone call regarding the rescued mustang and horse stallions that were left--the ones no one wanted. Their mission is to rescue and rehab horses but they do so much more.

Through workshops and individual training, Chris and Morgan Nichols give human and horses the opportunity to heal. They brought Warrior, Trooper and a mare now named Nevaeh (who we are pretty sure is Warrior's mom) back to the ranch in Somerset, CA (now in Imlay, NV).

This is Warrior/Dante



This is Trooper/Romeo



Almost exactly 2 years later, Warrior, is still a big hunk of a roan and they were right in saying that he is absolutely "gorgeous, brave, curious and willing". The way he moves and holds himself and his eagerness for us to be a team is remarkable. He has such grace, such a loving disposition, He is a smart, quick-learner as well as having a reputation for being a "Houdini". He is playful and emotional and willing to try something even if it is hard-- he is eager to bond with me and seeks my comfort after

any of our exercises, regardless of how big my ask is.

Trooper is a beautiful bay who has a big story to tell. By nature, horses (especially wild) are hypervigilant until they learn they are not in danger. Trooper has an old, large scar on his left shoulder, a fairly deep indentation in his jugular groove, an unknown injury to the left side of his face and ringbone in the pastern of his back left leg (which has fused itself) so he carries not only the remnants of neglect but also physical abuse. The second day we spent together at MHP, he rolled in the dirt with me 3 times! For a prey animal to put himself in such a vulnerable situation, I know he was telling me that I could do the same. If he could let go of the past and start to trust again, so could I. He is level-headed, sweet, smart and is the first to try something new. While he has been hiding in Warrior's shadow, he is starting to come out of his shell and I cannot wait to see this diamond in the rough transform into the incredible mustang he is meant to be!

My daughter and grandkids and I visited MHP in November of 2020 and I fell head over heels in love with these boys and decided to adopt them. They are also now BFF's so I couldn't possibly separate them! I started volunteering at MHP and working with them a couple of weeks later, not fully comprehending how much they would change my life. (As an aside, my daughter also fell in love with Braveheart, a horse at MHP and recently adopted him AND paid for Warrior's adoption fees as a Christmas gift to me!)

As a survivor of Complex PTSD (Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder), domestic violence, sexual abuse and as well as torture, I know what it is like to be called a "Warrior" and a "Trooper". I know what it means to be in a constant "fight or flight" mode. I understand what it is like to get anxious and have fear and trepidation in new situations/environment and especially with new people. These wild ones have been amazing for my soul! Working with them on their trust issues, fear,

confidence, etc. can be interesting and emotional because of the things it may trigger for me and them, but knowing we are each other's support system and we will get through it together is priceless. These boys will also never know starvation, neglect or abuse ever again.

Fortunately, the world of horsemanship has evolved, focusing more on the relationship and connection with the horse as opposed to "breaking" the horse. Gaining a horse's trust happens faster and deeper when you make them feel safe, are genuine and congruent with your energy and use clear and concise communication. When your heart and mind connection are in harmony. By seeking out the knowledge and expertise, and listening to incredible teachers (such as Patrick Sullivan of Modern Day Horsemanship and Gamilah Unbridled, Warwick Schiller, Susan D. Fay, PHD and author of "Sacred Spaces", and Chris Nichols of MHP), I started to learn how to do what I needed to do in order to create an excellent foundation and bond with my boys--before we could do anything else.

Gaining the trust of these magnificent boys had to start from the moment I met them. Horses are basically mind/energy readers and they just know. They knew that I meant no ill-will toward them but they also knew that I had a lot of work to do. The biggest lesson was learning to be present with them; mind, body and soul. Warrior is all about "Being" instead of "Doing". I can tell when my mind starts to wander when I am with them because Warrior will nudge my arm/shoulder or nibble on my shirt as if saying "hey, come back to me, I am right here".

In January of this year, I almost lost Nick (my partner in crime for the past 17 years) to Congestive Heart Failure. It has been a terrifying journey and between the working, caregiving and taking care of the household/animals, etc., going out to MHP to work with Warrior and Trooper 4+ days per week-- it was a lot and I was exhausted

and raw. I say that not for sympathy but to convey how truly extraordinary my boys are and I now also understand what an incredible gift they have been. Some of the most amazing breakthroughs I have had with Warrior was when I stopped putting on a brave face and actually let my guard down and cried. He immediately was there to stand with me, gently nudge me, comfort me and let me know that it was going to be okay.

By nature, horses are playful, intuitive, creative, loving, intelligent, non-judgmental creatures who require us to be patient, have structure, consistency and discipline in our lives. But most of all, they require us to Modern-Day keep our spirit (or get it back) and be true to ourselves. Horses never lie. They can and will mirror our behavior, reminding us of the things we need to work on in order to restore our health, heal and move on.

They are teaching me to be present, authentic and open. They are teaching me that it is okay to be vulnerable. They are teaching me to let go of my past just like I was asking my boys to let go of theirs. They are teaching me to let go of labels, preconceived notions and judgements-- of them, myself and others. They are teaching me about clear communication and intention. I am pretty sure that I am not rescuing them; they are rescuing me!

On May 15, 2021, Warrior and Trooper finally came home. Over 25 people were here for their homecoming and it was magical. When their trailer arrived, I cried. When they calmly walked out of the trailer into their pen, I cried. When I fed them for the first time at their forever home, I cried. It was (and still is) and absolute dream come true.

I spend time with them every day building the connection and relationship by trying to make them feel safe, hanging out with them and sharing space, working with them in the round pen, introducing them to new things (as well as things they already have experienced), matching steps, and more importantly, reinforcing that it is all

about teamwork and our two-way communication. Having them be able to communicate their concerns and have me listen and respect them is a key factor.

By creating relaxation and focusing on the connection and relationship instead of results (in the traditional way), they are more responsive to forming a lasting bond. Patience is also a key. Yes, everything, such as haltering them and leading them, took longer but the end result was worth it. I also do Liberty training with them (loose horse, no ropes or reins), asking them to go through things, walk over and between things (i.e., gates, tarps, hula-hoops, barrels). I ask them to touch/smell stuff. Their confidence is rising every day as well as our connection to each other. Every moment spent doing these things will make everything else so much easier. I am also using the CAT-H process for desensitizing because it keeps the horse below their tension threshold which fits perfectly with having them understand that I am aware of their concerns.

Warrior is eager to simply "BE" with me every day, we do not have to "DO" anything. Yet, in reality, by sharing space with him, having those energy/emotional exchanges and having that connection grow, we are actually "doing" more than we would be if we were, for example, "doing" groundwork. He also loves to run the full spectrum of their enclosure (just over an acre), rolling, playing and letting loose while I stand there sharing that moment.

Originally, Trooper had no real interest in human bonding and he was the king of avoidance/denial. He would do things with me and what I would ask of him but it was not from the same kind of emotional connection that Warrior exhibited. He would always act like Warrior "needed it more". Interestingly, Trooper was the first one to be haltered and lead, touched with a brush, etc. and be okay with it!

BUT, since being home, Trooper is now no longer shut down, he is aware and engaging with me and his environment. He will now stand quietly in the round pen with me, share space and easily go to his natural resting state. He faces me, gives me two eyes and will move in and stand next to me. I can kiss his nose and he will gently blow in my face which are definite signs of trust and willingness. He too, loves to run the entire enclosure, roll, play and let loose which makes my heart sing! He is transforming! Most of all, these boys are HAPPY!

My boys truly have my heart and soul! With time, patience and awareness, together we are learning to trust again. We are learning to overcome the past wounds and begin healing-- we have already begun that healing process in so many ways. I look forward to every moment and milestone, whether it be us simply sharing space, our first walk outside the enclosure at Liberty or our first ride; and it will all only happen when they are ready. Our journey together has just begun....

And here they are today!



I am eternally grateful to the people and the agencies who stepped in to initially save Warrior and Trooper's lives; Friends of Calaveras Animal Services (FOCAS), Calaveras County Sheriff's Dept., Calaveras Consolidated Fire, Calaveras County

Animal Services, ETA Evacuation Teams of Amador, Angels Camp Veterinary Hospital, Calaveras County Fairgrounds/RV Park, Spence Ranch Supply, Vicki Smalley DVM and The Medicine Horse Project (to all of those who support them). A huge thank you to Patrick Sullivan and Chris Nichols for your personal training/guidance with my boys, as well as to all my family and friends who helped bring my boys home. A special thank you to Kim deArrillaga of Friends of Calaveras Animal Services (FOCAS) for letting me share their story!

And thank YOU Brenda for the update! I love seeing the photos and videos of the boys on your Facebook page- the love shines through!



FOCAS Board Changes

We are sorry to announce that Darcy Zimmerman and Sheri Logan have resigned from the FOCAS board. We truly appreciate all they brought to FOCAS during their time on the board.

And we welcome Kathy Nuccio to the board and look forward to all that she will bring to FOCAS!