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# The Pittie Press

June 1, 2014

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL OF STANDING PROUD PIT BULL RESCUE NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

## Saving Swoozie

The time comes in everyone's life where tough decisions must be made, and in rescue this is almost a daily occurrence.



*Which dog do we take in? Which adopter will be the best for this animal? How do we raise the funds to pay for that surgery? Can we justify this expense for just one dog?*

Oftentimes there is no right answer or easy solutions to the problems we're faced with, but we didn't sign up for this work because it was easy...**we do this work because it is necessary.**

A few months ago we received a plea from a volunteer at MCACC East that a dog, Swoozie, was badly deteriorating. It was thought she had vision issues and was not long for this earth if she stayed in the shelter environment. Upon evaluation we realized Swoozie

was a sweet girl who just needed a nice home and some serious love, while we figured out her issues. Once a foster was identified, Swoozie was taken in to Standing Proud. One of her first appointments was with a veterinary ophthalmologist. While quite costly, this is what we signed up for when we took her in. Unfortunately this visit yielded a pure lack of results, and Swoozie's eyesight didn't appear to be the major cause of her clumsiness. She was started on some medications to see if that would help, but other than that we were back to square one.

A few weeks transpired and her symptoms appeared to be getting worse. She was bumping into walls on a constant basis and having trouble walking on hard surfaces. Her foster parents did everything in their power to make Swoozie's life easier and try and prevent these regular accidents. At this point it was suggested to us that her ailment may be neurological. Swoozie has since been to see a neurological specialist to diagnose her issues, however we still lack answers. The next step in the diagnosis is an MRI and spinal tap procedure, with a cost totaling over \$2,200. The veterinarian has cautioned us that there's a 50% chance that whatever her ailment is, it may not even appear on this battery of tests, and we might be back to square one once more. This is where those tough decisions come in to play.

Anyone who has been in rescue long enough will have had the internal struggle that I am about to relate to you.... "We can save another five dogs, at least, with \$2000".... "But she is our responsibility, we cannot fail her and give up." This goes back and forth and back and forth, never really resolving itself, regardless of the decision reached. Standing Proud was started to make a positive impact in the lives of pit bulls, and dogs in general...who are we to say that one life is not as important as five others? We have a philosophy around here, and that is **'quality over quantity'**. You will never see us overflowing with animals, or putting our own thoughts and feelings above the best interests of any one animal. That's just not the way rescue should be.

That all said, we have decided to proceed with the testing for Swoozie. Whether or not it yields a positive diagnosis, it is a necessary step that we are going to take. A few months ago when we answered that call, it was implied that we would provide the very best for Swoozie by any means necessary. This decision will cause us to refrain from intake for a while, unless we can raise the \$2300 without issue. But we all find comfort in the fact that we are doing the right thing for our girl. She is just as deserving of happily ever after as the next dog, and lucky for her we're going to try our best to give her that opportunity!



## Does your Homeowners or Renters insurance policy discriminate against your dog?

Call your current company and ask them if you are covered if your dog bites someone. If not, call us. We will make sure you get the policy that you and your K-9 companion deserve.



### We love all dog breeds!

**These breeds are excluded from most homeowners & renters policies but we will cover them all:**

- Pit Bulls - Rottweilers - Mastiffs - Akitas
- German Shepherds - Chow Chows
- Boxers - Doberman Pinschers - Huskies
- Malamutes - Dalmatians - Belgian Malinois
- Bull Dogs - Wolf Hybrids & More!

### We provide coverage for:

- Homeowners - Renters - Fosters
- Animal Rescues & Shelters - Dog Events

\*No dog bite exclusion as long as your dog has not bitten anyone in the past



**Marc Sollee Agency**  
**Farmers Insurance / K-9 Friendly Insurance**

602-773-4332

[msollee@farmersagent.com](mailto:msollee@farmersagent.com)

6320 E Thomas Rd Ste 303

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

[farmersagent.com/msollee](http://farmersagent.com/msollee)

[facebook.com/k9friendlyinsurance](https://facebook.com/k9friendlyinsurance)

[facebook.com/solleefarmersagency](https://facebook.com/solleefarmersagency)



**We will donate \$25 to Standing Proud Pit Bull Rescue Center when you start a new policy with us and mention that you found us because of their rescue!!!**

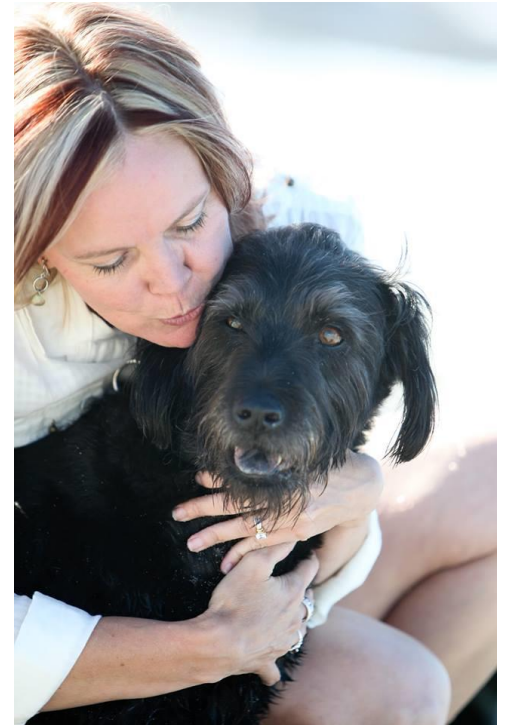


## Fun with Photography

*Recently we sat down with our friend Dawn Rotta, of Pawztography to talk shop! They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but to rescue pets it is so much more. Oftentimes a good photo can be the difference of life and death for a shelter pet, and for dogs in private rescue photos are invaluable to help network them and showcase their true personalities! Here are a few questions we asked Dawn as well as some words of wisdom from our truly talented friend!*

### Why/how did you get involved in pet photography?

Growing up in rural southwest PA, I can't recall a time in my life that I didn't have a pet of some sort and a camera in my hand. After "life" took over (marriage, a baby, and work), I didn't have much time for my hobby and it was put on the back burner. I moved to AZ in 1998 and soon after "rescued" a pup from a pet store in 2000 that would forever change my life; Sparky was a momma's boy and we loved him to pieces. In 2009, Sparky began having unexplained seizures and I began snapping pictures like crazy with my point-and-shoot camera and phone, trying to capture all the memories I could. In early 2011 after a 2-year battle, our love bug crossed the rainbow bridge....



After my fiancé and I were married in Oct. 2011, I found myself with nothing to do after being so busy with Sparky's health issues and wedding planning for 2 years and I was driving my husband crazy! One day he looked at me and said, "You need a hobby". I gave crocheting a shot which didn't last long (let's just say it's not my cup of tea!) and decided to return to my first love, photography. I borrowed my husband's DSLR, enrolled in a few photography workshops and one in particular, pet photography, hit home and woke a sleeping beast within.

### What do you think the benefit of quality pet photos are; particularly for rescue/shelter pets?

Each animal has a unique personality and the best way to show it off is with a great photo. A happy, smiling pet photo in an indoor or outdoor location versus one behind bars or cowering in a kennel makes a **HUGE** difference. I'm sure you've all seen the images of a sad shelter animal behind bars. What feelings do these evoke? Sorrow? Anger? Tears? On the other hand, a happy, "glamour" shot portrays tenderness and warmth; ***feelings that help potential adopters connect with the animals.*** It may even inspire those that can't adopt at the time to share the photos on their Facebook wall or with a friend, helping to network and get greater exposure for the adoptable animals.



## What is HeARTs Speak and how did you get involved?

HeARTs Speak is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that unites and helps support artists who provide their talents to animal welfare organizations and the communities they serve. It is member based and consists of photographers, painters and sculptors (to name just a few) that offer pro bono creative services to animal shelters and rescues. HeARTs Speak was founded in 2010 and has grown to include 400 members in 48 states and 12 countries! Members serve as ambassadors, assisting and educating communities of the importance of animal adoptions - we are Artists. Helping. Animals.

I became a proud, aspiring member of HeARTs Speak in 2012 after our pet photography workshop instructor, a service professional member of HeARTs Speak, told everyone enrolled in the class about the organization and how we too could become involved and help make a difference in the lives of shelter and rescue animals.

## Do you have any advice for a novice that might want to get involved in pet photography for the purposes of volunteering their services to a rescue?

1. You must love animals and enjoy being around them! Animals sense this and I believe trust/connection with them is #1 when it comes to capturing a great photo.
2. Patience, patience, patience ☺. Sit or wait quietly and let the animal come to you and become familiar with you. Don't rush, and give the dogs time to explore their surroundings. I even let the dogs smell/check out the camera if they want - this lets the animal become comfortable with what is happening and feel less intimidated. Flat ears and bugged out eyes convey scared and are not the look you want.
3. Get to know your camera, what each setting does, and how to change them quickly if need be. Always use a fast shutter speed on your camera to "freeze motion" as even the slightest movement can make for blur.
4. If possible, shoot outdoors in natural light - if it's bright and sunny, seek out and shoot in shade if you can find it. Look for a nice "backdrop" (a brick wall outside the adoption location, shrubbery, etc.) and try not to get distracting elements in your shot such as cars , garbage cans, etc.
5. Enlist the help of a friend or one of the rescue volunteers as an assistant. They can sit near the animal to help calm and/or hold them and remove their hands when you're ready to take the photos or hold the leash to help those animals who don't know sit or stay remain in place. Invest in a thin leash or lead that is easy to clone out post processing if you have the software to do so.
6. Have an arsenal of treats, squeaky toys and great "mouth noises" to get their attention!

7. Above all, HAVE FUN and savor the moments when you find out the adoptables have found their forever homes - there is no greater feeling!

*Dawn has helped Standing Proud tremendously with getting some of our more reserved dogs to really showcase their personality in shots. Recently she met up with us at a local park to get some glamour shots of Iris, who we couldn't seem to get a good picture of. Take a look at this before and after and you be the judge of which shot is more appealing!*

## BEFORE



## AFTER



Dawn also does personal pet portraits so check out her work and give her a call to commemorate your best friend! And if you enjoy recurring cuteness in your Facebook newsfeed, give Pawztography a 'like' too!

<https://www.facebook.com/Pawztography>

[www.pawztography.com](http://www.pawztography.com)

[pawztography@gmail.com](mailto:pawztography@gmail.com)

480-269-1322

# *Beat the heat this summer!*

It is getting hot very quickly here in Arizona, but that doesn't mean we can shut all of the dogs inside until October. We have to be creative with getting the dogs the right amount of exercise in order to still meet their needs and burn of some energy.



One thing that we absolutely love to do with our dogs is early morning hikes. Recently we hiked with some dogs and a group of volunteers up South Mountain on an early Saturday morning. The dogs absolutely loved the workout and were quite tired after the hike.

Something else worthy of an investment is a kiddie pool. Not all dogs like water, but when the summer sun is beating down a lot of dogs will learn

to enjoy a quick dip in a small pool. Dogs can only cool themselves through the pads of their feet or panting, so you'll often see them dipping their feet in a water bowl to cool down. Providing a kiddie pool with a few inches of water will help your dog to keep cool, and can also be quite fun for them to splash around!





# ADOPTION QUICK TIPS

Adopting a dog is a life-changing experience, not only for that dog, but for you as well. Some people think it's as simple as running out to your local shelter/rescue and picking up the pup of your choice and just plopping them into your home as if it were no big deal. But this is not a good idea! For the vast majority of situations it takes **time, patience, and an appropriate quarantine** period for all parties to adjust to the new roommate! If you adopt from a legitimate rescue then they will help you with all dog introductions and coach you on appropriate handling methods, as well as be available for you to call with questions.

A dog coming from a legitimate rescue should be properly vaccinated and healthy when it is adopted. However, if you adopt a dog from a local shelter you should ALWAYS quarantine the dog for a minimum of 2 weeks from all other pets. Most viruses and diseases will present within a 14 day period, and therefore keeping your new dog sequestered from other animals will keep them safe, as well as your other pets. This will also help them to adjust to life within a home, which is quite different than a shelter environment. As always, we want to be a resource to our adopters, but also to the community. If you have just adopted a new dog and have questions, then ask! There is a wealth of knowledge and resources out there, and forever homes is what the rescue community really strives for!

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Our friends at Unique Paracord Design AZ do it all...from Crosses, bracelets, necklaces, key chains, zipper pulls, dog/cat collars, and leashes with new items added all the time! Recently they made us some nice slip leads and training leashes, both custom made to order! Check them out!

<https://www.facebook.com/UniqueParacordDesignAz>

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/UniqueParacordDesign>





**Thank you so much to Green Bulldog Wash and Spa in Mesa for hosting us last month for a fabulous fundraiser! For every \$20 do-it-yourself wash purchased, Green Bulldog donated \$15 to Standing Proud!**

## WISH LIST

- 🐾 Dog treats
- 🐾 Dog Food (*Nature's Domain sweet potato and salmon*)
- 🐾 100% Pure canned Pumpkin Puree
- 🐾 Shampoo/Conditioner
- 🐾 Crates/Kennels
- 🐾 Dog Beds
- 🐾 Laundry Soap
- 🐾 Office Supplies
- 🐾 Towels
- 🐾 Gift Cards
- 🐾 Printer paper



## Baths for Bullies

\$20 self-service washes with 15% coming straight back to Standing Proud Pit Bull Rescue!

Come get your suds on! *Green Bulldog*  
Sunday May 18th from  
11:00AM until 3:00PM

1731 W Baseline Rd,  
Mesa, AZ 85202  
(480) 820-2550



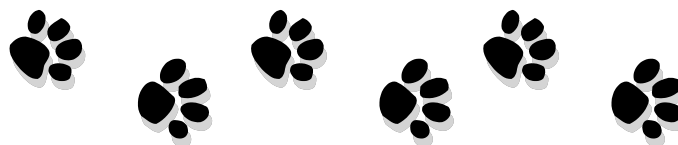
## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 7th** Customer Appreciation Day with  
RideNow Powersports Chandler

**June 8th** Active and Outdoors Adoption  
event with Bass Pro Shops - Mesa

**June 14th - 21st** Swoozie's Sizzlin' Summer  
Online Auction

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** A Day at the Beach



Standing Proud Pit Bull Rescue now has an online shop where you can purchase all of your Standing Proud pit bull merch! We are adding new products weekly, so be sure to check it out!

[Standingproudpitbulls.org](http://Standingproudpitbulls.org) and  
click on "shop"

