

## Rosemary's Story

By Diane Cummings

It can be said that every animal has a story and this is true of Rosemary. Rosemary is a true Navajo dog. Her beautiful brown eyes slant upwards and she averts them politely if you are so bold as to look at her. She will raise her paw to you softly, as if to shake your hand with just a slight touch.

Rosemary appeared in the parking lot of Ft Defiance Indian Hospital on a cold, snowy morning. She stayed there, a white dog huddled against the white snowflakes, growing thinner and thinner.

I met Rosemary soon after I arrived at the hospital. I was there to get clinical hours in order to graduate from the University of New Mexico's midwifery program.

For the first 2 weeks, I would arrive at the hospital at 8 in the morning, giving Rosemary some food before heading upstairs to Labor and Delivery. I would feed her again when I left at night.

Rosemary would not let me near her...the closest I got was about 5 feet. If I got any closer she would run away, only returning to her food bowl when I backed off.

Several people were angry that I was feeding a stray dog. A security guard said it was against the rules to feed a dog on IHS property. A woman who worked at the

clinic called me a "stupid bella-gaana" (white person). But others were sympathetic. Another security guard whispered to me that he was glad I was giving food to the dog. He feared that she wasn't going to last long on the rez, because she was so sweet and submissive.

One frigid night, I exited the hospital at midnight. Rosemary was waiting for me. Snow was falling heavily and the temperature was about 10 degrees. This time, as I edged closer, Rosemary didn't move. I picked her up and put her in the back of my truck which had a camper shell. Then I said "What am I going to do now?" For the next 2 nights, Rosemary slept in the back of my truck, snuggled into warm blankets.

Rosemary was boarded for the next 6 weeks on a ranch in Thoreau, NM with a nice lady named April. At this ranch she became housebroken, ran around with other dogs, grew accustomed to cats and received a steady supply of food.

At the end of April, when I was done with my clinical hours, I put Rosemary into my truck and we left the reservation for the big town of Albuquerque. My partner and I had agreed that we would foster Rosemary until we could find her another home in Albuquerque. We already had 3 cats. After 2 weeks my partner asked if we could keep her, and so we did.

Despite her beginnings, Rosemary quickly learned to walk on the sidewalk and on a leash. She has flourished from a skinny, shy pup into 35 lbs of confidence. Rosemary is white and cream colored with pointy ears and a curved tail. She is quite eye-catching and gathers a lot of attention on our daily walks to Satellite Coffee for her dinner roll. Most people cannot believe she's a rez dog. But underneath her urban habits, she is still Dine' (Navajo) at heart. Last week in Kayenta, she raced and sped atop the red rocks of Monument Valley as if she had never been away at all.



A generous donation has been made to Blackhat Humane Society, from

David and Judith Roe.

In memory of "Big", Beautiful & Beloved cat of Kevin Roe.



The Veterinarians at Cedar Animal Hospital in Gallup have partnered with Blackhat Humane Society to reach out to the animals of the Navajo Nation. Generous donations from Blackhat supporters have enabled us to finance spay/neuter services for folks on the reservation who could never have afforded to have their animals fixed. Approximately every 6 weeks, Doctors Tess Langham, Cody Balok and Jessica Balok perform surgery on 40 animals. It is rewarding to see the affection that the owners have for their animals as well as the gratitude they show to the Blackhat volunteers who inform each owner of their animals progress throughout surgery and recovery.

## History of Blackhat Humane Society

A donation has been made by Catherine Muldoon in celebration of Mattie and Walker

Blackhat Humane Society was started in the year 2000 by some people who wanted to do more than just feed the starving, homeless animals wandering the vast and open Navajo Nation. On the "Rez", towns are often 100 miles apart with nothing but desert and red rocks between them.

for adoption, Blackhat puts the animal's picture and biography on our website: [www.rezdog.petfinder.org](http://www.rezdog.petfinder.org)

Our group cares mainly for dogs and cats but we care about ALL the animals and have helped horses, cows, goats and hawks to find a safe haven.\* 98% of our money goes to veterinary care. Few young animals receive vaccinations on the Rez, resulting in a high incidence of Parvo and Distemper viruses. All BHS animals are vaccinated and spayed or neutered before adoption. Our group knows that education is the way to make changes and we have taken steps to provide programs and literature regarding responsible animal care to all ages.

\* In 2005, we have made a difference in the lives of 218 dogs, 64 cats, 2 horses and a rabbit. So far, in 2006, we have found homes for 175 dogs, 28 cats and 3 horses.



### OUR WISH LIST



- Dog and cat food
- Airline and metal crates
- Collars and leashes
- Soft squeaky toys
- Blankets and quilts
- Horse blankets
- Vet supplies

Many folks who live and work on the Navajo Reservation are concerned about pet overpopulation and they're doing all they can to find medical care and homes for these extra animals. What our group seeks to do is help these kind people to continue helping the animals. There exists a network of foster homes throughout the Navajo Nation. Animals are taken into foster care where they receive food, vaccinations, medical care and lots of love.

When the foster home feels the animal is ready

### THANK YOUS

- Rose Moonwater
- The Roe Clan
- Cedar Vet Hospital
- Julie Myers
- Patricia Sielski
- McKinley Co Humane Society
- Ray Young
- Sara Pollock
- Diane Cummings
- Claudia Scott
- Diane Reichert
- Robert A Stanley



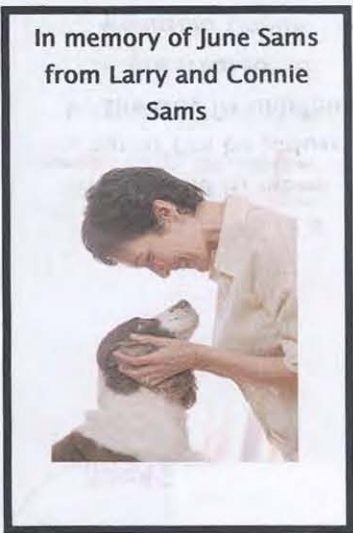
### In Memory of Lobo

A Coyote/Shepherd mix whose gentle spirit soared up to the stars after 14 years with Sandra Ely. Lobo was rescued from an abandoned homeless camp on a rainy morning in western Oregon.

From Tom & Monique



Jodi Pedri has made a donation in memory of her cat Killian who passed away in 2005 at 17 years old



In memory of June Sams from Larry and Connie Sams

Please write and send photos about your rescue, fostering or special pet memories. We'll do our best to get them into our newsletter!



A special thanks to Virginia June Hart!



### In memory of Don and Jo Wells

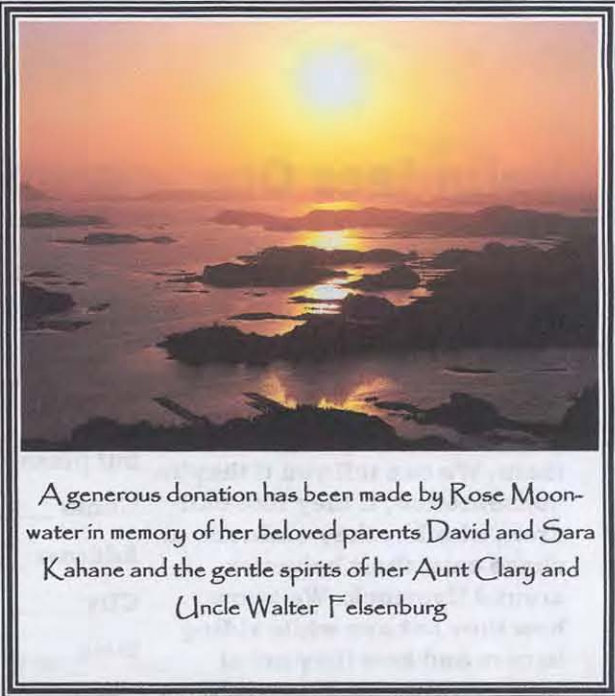


From D Wells

### Emily Adopts Teddy and Life is Good!



Emily Glitner adopted Teddy, a special needs dog, in March of this year. Tamara and her husband Jim, were pleased that Emily spent the day at their house, getting to know Teddy. Ted required more surgery after his adoption. Emily was with him the whole time. Now Teddy is walking without pain and is looking forward to many years with his best friend.



A generous donation has been made by Rose Moonwater in memory of her beloved parents David and Sara Kahane and the gentle spirits of her Aunt Clary and Uncle Walter Felsenburg

God made the earth, the sky and the water, the moon and the sun. He made man and woman, bird and beast. But He didn't make the dog. He already had one.

— Native American saying

Want your dog to respect you a little more? When the alpha wolf returns to the pack after being away, it holds its head up and ignores the fawning pack. Try ignoring your dogs for 5 minutes when you come through the front door. It will be tough! We usually fawn over them, don't we? Try it. Don't make eye contact or talk to them for 5 whole minutes and see the newfound reverence in their eyes!

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"

*Mahatma Gandhi*



Our homepage: [www.rezdogg.petfinder.org](http://www.rezdogg.petfinder.org)  
 Email: [ambtwiff1@yahoo.com](mailto:ambtwiff1@yahoo.com)  
 Phone: (928) 337-2828  
 Sanders, AZ 86512  
 P.O. Box 137  
 Blackhat Humane Society

## Volunteer Opportunities

Blackhat Humane Society would be lost without our wonderful foster homes! We are proud that none of our rescued animals are confined in cages. All live in foster homes and are part of the family that cares for them. We can tell you if they're housebroken, if they like children, whether they embrace or chase cats, their behavior around livestock. We know how they behave while riding in cars and how they act at feeding time. All of our rescued animals go to their adoptive homes up-to-date on vaccinations. All are spayed or neutered (if old enough). We supply foster homes with food, supplies and financial assistance for medical care. We do the advertising for prospective

adopters and are always available to guide the foster parents through the adoption process.

Yes, I'd be interested in fostering for Blackhat.

No I can't foster but please accept my donation.

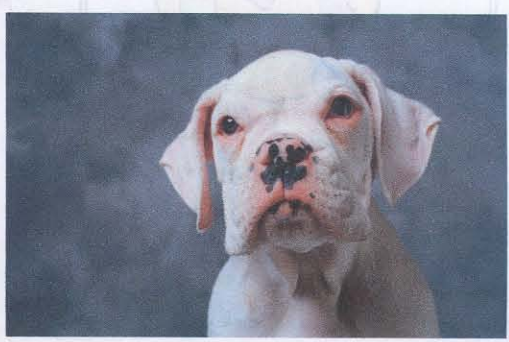
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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## DONATIONS NEEDED!

98% of donations go to the animals; for food, veterinary care and vaccinations. Please help us to help them!

Send to:  
 Blackhat Humane Society  
 P.O. Box 137  
 Sanders, AZ 86512



There is still so much work to be done. Please, never pass up a suffering animal without trying to help.