



Spring Newsletter 2026

Spring is in the air and bassets are coming into rescue like wildflowers blooming on the hillside.

Often the public is completely unaware of how much work goes into a single rescue, we thought that outlining an average intake here may be beneficial to understand the costs of bringing in even one rescue.

- **Intake:** Happens in a couple of ways: An owner surrender typically starts out as a phone call or email. Sometimes 3-4 conversations go into making arrangements for an owner surrender. Shelter intake happens when a stray is brought into the shelter via animal control or in some cases, an owner surrender to the shelter. Several calls or emails later, and after the mandatory hold period has passed, they can be released to us.
- **Transportation:** A volunteer picks up a hound and drives it to Daphneyland (or we travel from the ranch and pick up and bring back)
- **Vet Care:** Spay or Neuter, shots, exam, microchip (or transfer fees if one already existing) are the bare basics on a healthy dog. Today's average cost for this package is \$1,800.00. If a dental, lump removal etc. may be needed that cost averages \$2500.00.
- **Rehab:** De worming, nutritional rehab, baths, training, nail trims and anal gland expressions raises those costs for every week a hound is in rescue.
- **Upkeep:** Add in laundry for clean blankets daily, towels, feeding, supplements, water, electricity, gas and any medications we have to give.
- **Placement:** Interviewing, home checking and public adoption days all have costs associated with them; phone lines, insurance, power, water, telephone, website, etc.
- **Adoption:** Finally, the adoption process wherein education, 2 weeks of food to adjust, exit groom, leashing, collar, toys and a happy farewell round out the day.
- Average cost of a hound's intake through adoption is \$3000.00 for a healthy hound. Average adoption fee is only \$400.00 **This is why monthly donations are SO important!**

Ranch Updates

Last year found us in desperate need of a water storage tank to reduce our dependency on buying water weekly. Our amazing donors made that dream a reality.

This year we are focusing on two other much needed items.

As you well know, we have been here since 2002. We do routine maintenance on our facility and have been doing as much maintenance on our kennel roof as possible, but at this point, it really needs to be replaced. \$25,000.00 is the cost.

The other is much needed replacement tires for our evacuation vehicles. Fire season is once again upon us, and we must always be prepared to evacuate if needed. \$7,000.00

Happy Adoptions



Miah

When my children were young, we adopted a 6-month-old small mixed breed, Cocoa, from the county shelter back in 2008. Fast forward to 2019, my husband and I, after moving to our current house, decided we would like to rescue an often-overlooked older dog so they could live out their last years in comfort. We adopted Sasha, our Shar-pei Coon hound mix, from Best Friends shelter at the age of ten. She and Cocoa became fast friends. Unfortunately, in 2023, at 16, Cocoa fell ill and had to be put down. Over time we noticed Sasha was still very sad over the loss, so we decided to adopt again. And specifically, a senior dog. Because of our love of hounds, we connected with Daphneyland. Once we got through the process and visited the ranch, we immediately sensed 10-year-old Miah was the one. She has fit into our family seamlessly. We have two of the sweetest hounds around. While Sasha and Miah (now Bonnie) are not best friends yet, I've no doubt they will be bonded soon enough. And we are blessed to give a loving and spoiled home to our sweet senior girls!

Wendi



Cooper

Cooper has brought great joy to our home. He is a true love bug and a gentleman. He has gotten comfortable enough to start being bossy. He wakes me up each morning once he has decided that I should be up and fixing his breakfast plus getting ready for our walk.

When out and about in public, the one thing I've had to get used to is Cooper's inherent celebrity status. Everybody loves a Basset Hound. Wherever we go people come up to us and want to visit with Cooper. Evidently, he has cute and cuddly down to an art. Fortunately, he has endless patience with his fans.

Though he has two beds, and a crate with a mattress, Cooper chooses to sleep either in my bed as close as possible, or on a recliner where he can keep an eye on me all night long. I think we now have a Velcro Dog, and I could not be happier.

My thanks to Daphneyland for giving Cheri and I the opportunity to bring Cooper into our lives. Cooper and I are genuinely bonded buddies. Cheri loves Cooper's antics and has been known also sneak him his doggie biscuit which he truly appreciates. As a family, we are all healthy and happy.

Fred



Ella

When I heard that I had passed the interviews and home checks with Sandi, Judy, and Nancy, and had an official appointment to go to Daphneyland, I had tears of joy. Having lost my beloved puppy of almost two years to a neuter gone wrong, waves of grief and nervousness mixed with hope and relief. Knowing there could be a rescue waiting to find a loving forever home felt like an energetic match already. After speaking with Dawn Smith, it was clear this future dog and I needed each other. My best friend Laura jumped on a train that night so we could drive out to meet Dawn and her team the next day. I had remembered what Dawn said on the phone: “A dog’s paw leaves an imprint on your heart, and that loss leaves a hole in your heart...we just need to find you a dog that has an even bigger imprint to help heal it.” I did not think it was possible but hoped I was doing the right thing. The video on the Daphneyland website said, “we save dogs, but we also save humans too.” I knew I was in the right place. *You need a hound to heal from a hound.* But now I know—*you need a hound, period.*

As soon as we arrived to Daphneyland, I could feel a super-shot of joy make its way into my system. One hound does that automatically, but 70 hounds is better than any Disneyland, it’s cuteness overload. It was like a clown town! The curious, comedic, and chaotic energy of a pack of bassets was waddlicious. As they were released, I loved all of them and did not know how I could decide. What I realized three hours later was that Gabriella (who I now call Ella) had picked me from the very start. Out came this beautiful girl with extra thick eyeliner and I recognized her! I had seen her on Instagram when she was adopted the first time and I remembered thinking that if I had been here sooner, I would have chosen her too. Yet here she was, back again!

In my mind I was looking for a surrogate for the boy pup I had lost but every time I reached out to meet and pet the other dogs, Ella was right by my side to intercept, making eye contact, nudged me, placed her paw on my arm, and quietly blocked as many dogs as she could. As other dogs came up to me, she never left my side, it was like they were greeting the both of us. Laura and Dawn both acknowledged the obvious, “look who’s right under your nose” they said, “well, you can’t just leave her here.” Ella had claimed me. I recognized that and looked at her and thought “are we going to help each other?” and she fluttered her tail and leaned in. Tears. Pictures. Dawn grabbed the paperwork. She was the one. Dawn had said she knew Gabriella was probably the one when we were on the phone, and they joked that she was the dog who was two years old, going on ninety.

Gabriella was found in Tijuana, Mexico sleeping in a tire on the side of the road by an abandoned building. By the looks of her, she had likely given birth to pups. It took them a few¹

days to catch her and after vet assistance and quarantine, she finally made it to Daphneyland. She needed a permanent home where she could learn to trust, heal, and be loved. After seeing her intake pictures, I could not believe she was the same dog that was in my lap. She is calm, gentle, loving, sweet and silly. She is precious and, moreover, she trusts me, and we are working through her triggers. I have learned to make her the homemade food, which she loves, she is excited to go for car rides, runs full speed to get the tennis balls that grandma gifted her at Christmas, and plays with all the toys that my co-workers and I have bought her to make her feel at home. Our favorite times together are going for walks, curling up on the couch, or snuggling into bed where she is slept since day one. She flutters her tail when I sing to her, has a loud basset purr, and she loves to stare, making long eye contact before drifting to sleep. I do not know why she is so perfect, but we are healing each other's hearts.

I am so grateful for Dawn and the Daphneyland community for their friendship, mentorship, and the amazing work that they do.

Karen

The meaning and dedication of "Rescue"

We do not often talk about it. What happens when a rescue dog is difficult to place?

One of the founding reasons we opened Daphneyland, was to have the ability to sanctuary difficult dogs.

Originally, we were foster home based. The problem of "Sanctuary" is the misperception that rescue groups just lock them up and forget about them. Donors rarely sponsor sanctuary dogs. If you identify as a sanctuary, people assume you have no adoptable dogs, or only problem dogs. It's a delicate balance.

Buddy of Havasu is one of those dogs.

The original email came in 12/2016. Bud was nipping at grandkids when they came over and a wife wanted him euthanized. In talking with the owner, several red flags came up and we tried to help keep him in that home by phone consultation, recommendations and even referral of a trainer. All to no avail.

On March 3, 2017, he was picked up in Kingman and stayed for a week with a volunteer in Havasu. The reports were that he was a loving boy at 5 years of age. He was transported to Daphneyland 3/10/17. He did great here with us, and an adult only, basset savvy home was found.

Lifestyles changed and that home suddenly had 2 additional adults, 2 grandchildren and another 2 hounds all move in together. Buddy rebelled. Rescue is about lifelong placement, and Buddy came back to us here at Daphneyland on 9/11/17. Older, crankier and less tolerant of youngsters, we began looking for an adult only home, less active and no children visitors. Someone who did NOT want a couch, Buddy.

In February of 2018, a new wrangler began here at Daphneyland. They met. They bonded.

Over all these years, Buddy has had his vet care, twice daily food, all day play, sunbathing, toys, blankets, treats and the constant lump removals at Dr. Loken's. We are fortunate to

have our veterinarians that work with our problem dogs. The Janine Smith Trust has made possible so many of the senior hounds getting those dentals, surgeries and maintaining the diets we give to all our hounds. 9 years of a happy life for Bud. He picked another grumpy soul to be his basset pal; Knorman & Buddy - the Grumpsters.

Cancer is an ugly beast, and it reared its head a few years ago. With supplements and a change in diet, Buddy did quite well, enjoying his time with us. Last week when the storm started rolling in, Buddy went down in the rear end. Consults and implementing comfort and care, we knew this day would come. We hoped we would have a bit more time. This morning his special guy made the request.

10 years we have known him, 9 of them he has lived here with us.

Today, his favorite dude took him for a car ride to see his favorite vet for the last time.

A thousand memories. 15 years old. From intake to his final vet appointment our hearts have been wrapped with his. 10 long years of Buddy. Run free beautiful boy - find that warm patch of green grass and let your soul heal.

My Buddy, My Buddy - your buddy misses you.

Daphneyland's Buddy of Havasu Soto - ATB 2/20/26

A forever Rescue



Daily Needs List:

Every day we use the following products for the hounds. The BEST way to get these products for the hounds is to donate, as we have long seated suppliers in use and can usually get the best deal from long established vendors.

Sportmix Wholesomes Chicken & Rice

Evangers Chicken & Rice canned

Earthborn kibble (Bison)

Raw Honey

Zylkene 450 mgs

Colostrum

Clear laundry detergent

American Journey Dog Biscuits 15 lb. box

Canned chicken breast

Green Beans

Long grain white rice

Canned pumpkin

Simple Green

Clorox Bleach

Cold Pressed Virgin Coconut Oil

K.O.E. by Thornell

Acid Reducer

Gas Relief gel caps

33-gallon drawstring trash bags

Desert Pure Yucca Powder

Turmeric

Nutiva cold pressed hemp oil

Sardines in spring water





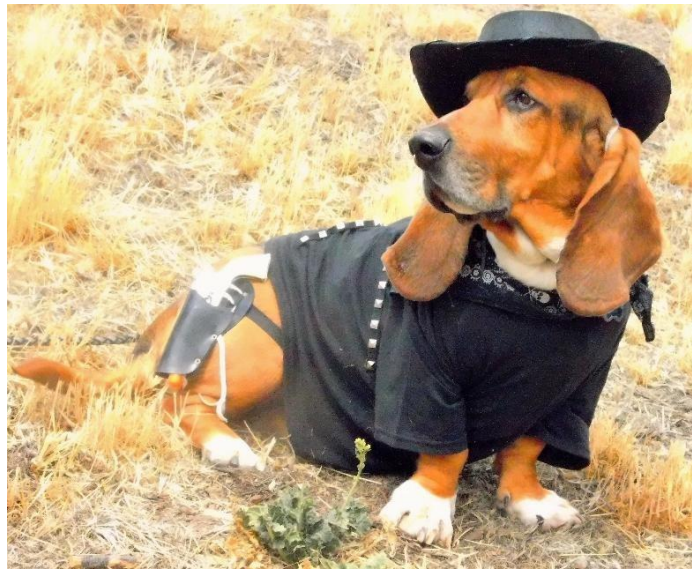
Daphneyland's Annual Hoedown

Saturday – June 6, 2026



It's time to come lasso up some fun at our annual HoeDown with the Hounds at Daphneyland
6221 Shannon Valley Road; Acton, California
June 6, 2026, 11 AM – 3 PM

A benefit to raise much needed funds for Daphneyland bassets.



The day includes:

- ★ Best Dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl Pageant!!!
- ★ Great Raffle Baskets with Loads of Cool Stuff,
- ★ Silent Auction with one-of-a-kind Basset Collectibles,
- ★ Music that will make ya wanna tap your toes.
- ★ Basset contests.

For more info & directions, visit our website at

www.daphneyland.com

Daphneyland Team

Golden Empire Basset Rescue at Daphneyland Board:

President: Dawn Smith

Secretary: Erica Weis

Treasurer: Lynn McCarthy

Board Member/Ranch Manager: Luis Soto

Board Member: Sandra Wittenberg PhD

Board Member: J D Carpenter, PhD

Board Member Judy Brubaker

Board Member: Nancy Carpenter

Key Volunteers & Advisors:

Adoption Coordinator: Sandra Wittenberg PhD

Shelter Coordinators: Judy Brubaker/Dawn Smith

Transportation Coordinators: Adele Rey, Luis Soto,

Bob McGarry, Chase Sampson, Amanda Barber, Greg Dally, Greg

Hetson, Kristine Monalo, Alan Serebof, Tyler Harris

Webmaster: J D Carpenter, PhD

Behavioral Consultant:

Dr. Cari B. Cannon, PhD

Trainers: Colleen Lange, Kim Kurland

Financial Advisory Team:

Nicolas Amato, Bruce Garvin, Dawn Smith, Luis Soto, Erica Weis, Tyler Harris,
Nancy Carpenter, Judy Brubaker

Wranglers:

Amanda, Aviel, Bruce, Dawn, Erica, Greg D, Greg H, Mike, Nickolas, Pam, Tyler

Veterinarians:

Dr. Reid Loken, DVM & staff at Acton Veterinary Clinic, Acton CA

Dr. Ban, DVM & staff at Roswinn Pet Hospital, Canoga Park CA

Dr. Dan Slaton, DVM & staff at Slaton Veterinary Center, Thousand Oaks CA

Golden Empire Basset Rescue at Daphneyland

Donations are tax deductible.

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