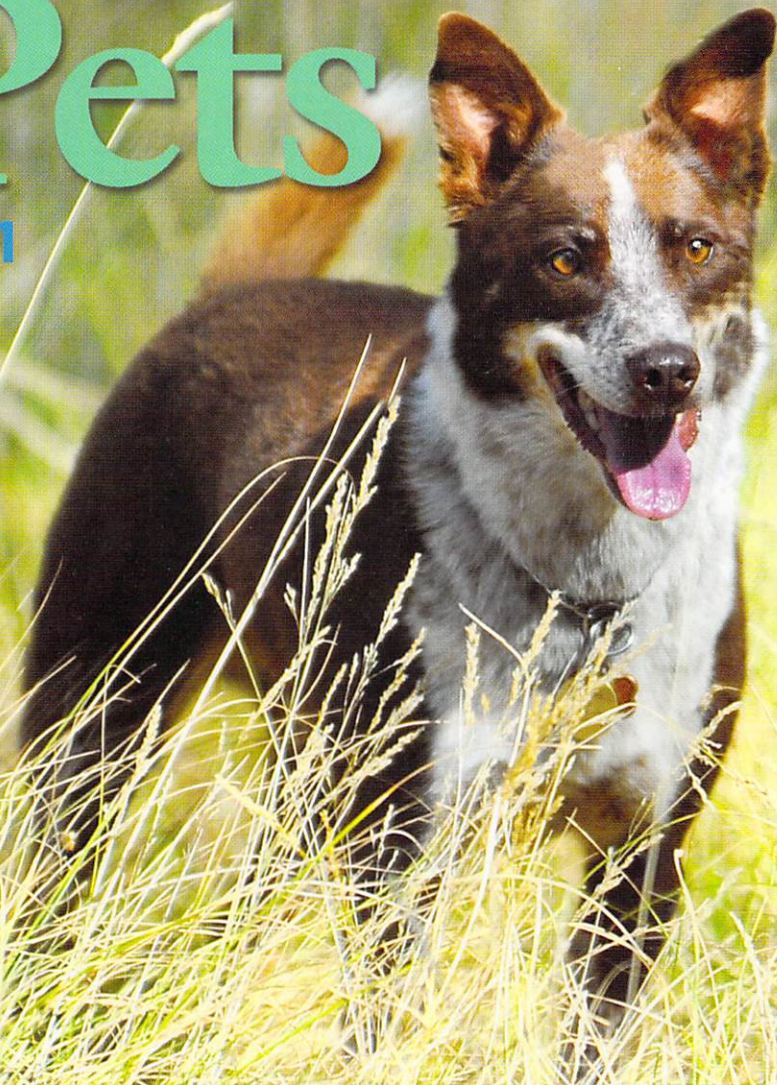


Happy

Healthy

Pets

2021



Cameron Park pilot and her pooch are on a mission.

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Critters of all kinds find refuge at Cool sanctuary.

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Tip takes a trip and needs a little help finding his way home.

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Faint of heart? This herd of goats can relate.

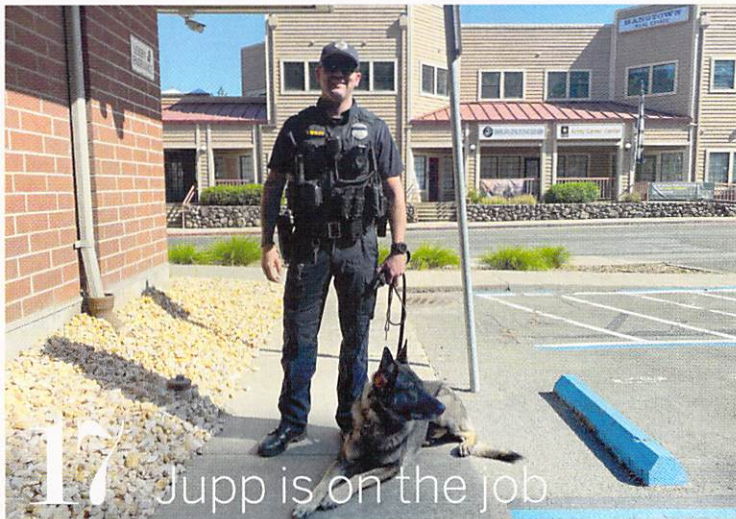
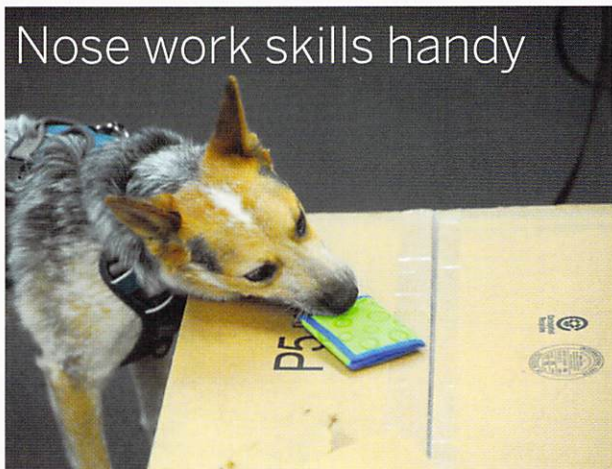
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14 Saving the four-legged

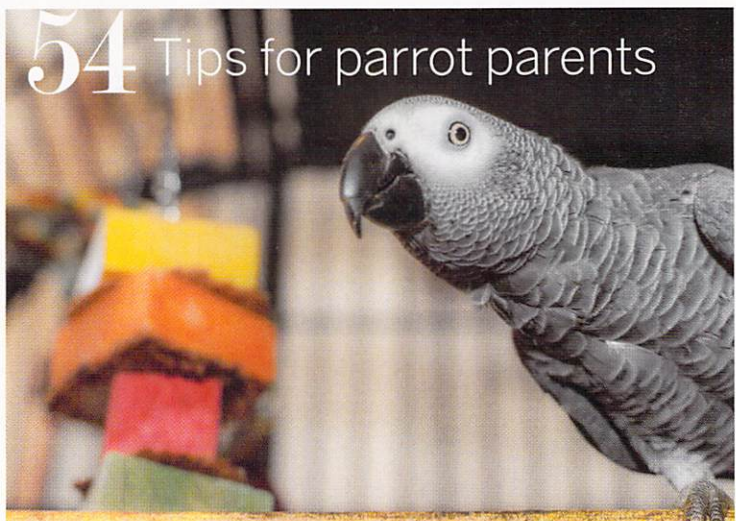
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Life-saving respirators



*not just for
humans anymore*



Story and photos by
Andrew Vonderschmitt

When a fire crew arrives on the scene of a structure fire each first responder is assigned a task by the ranking firefighter: save the structure, contain the fire, rescue occupants, minimize damage, protect surrounding structures ... the list goes on and, for animal lovers, includes the very important task of saving domestic animals at risk.

Those assigned to rescue and protect domestic animals can do their job much better if they have the right tools like a respirator that fits the snout of a cat or a dog.

That's where Hangtown Kennel Club comes into play. Through fundraising efforts over the years, the club has donated several pet respirators that fit snugly on all kinds of domestic animals to deliver life-saving oxygen in their time of need. The respirators fit on standard oxygen tanks and can be carried on any responding engine.

Animal respirators are not standard



equipment on fire engines. When a respirator designed for animals is not available and a dog or cat needs oxygen, firefighters can make the human sized masks work. However, the custom-fit respirators are much easier to use and deliver more oxygen to the animal in their time of need.

SEEING A NEED

In 2014 members of the Hangtown Kennel Club board, when deciding how best to use funds from a recent show, recognized a need for respirators aboard local fire engines.

“Hangtown Kennel Club tries to give where their donations can be put to good use,” said Vearle La Berge, HKC board member.

The club purchased 23 pet respirators and donated them to El Dorado County fire districts free of charge.

In recent times the respirators have helped revive saved pets from a structure fire in Grizzly Flat and a residential fire in Camino. After fundraising efforts this year the Hangtown Kennel Club will be making yet another purchase of masks to donate to local fire districts. 🐾

