

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Every day is an adventure with furry friends

By Kristine Olsen

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Every day is an adventure in my household.

Over the past 11 years, my two favorite friends, Sage and Saffron, and I have logged many enjoyable miles walking through the varied terrains that make up this awesome planet we call Earth.

We have romped through snow, slipped in sleet, ran through the rain and frolicked in sunshine and darkness. We have climbed hills and scurried down valleys. We have encountered many a wonderful creature, including deer, a rabbit, a turtle — and yes, we even had a few encounters with skunks.

One day, the adventure was a bit different. Out for our daily exercise and a little peace of mind, we chose to take a path that skirts an irrigation ditch near a young pecan grove.

As we walked along, we spied an animal in the ditch. Low and behold, it was a golden retriever.

Sage and Saffron were curious, had raised hairs and eyes peeled on the stranger who looked up at us, but did not utter a peep.

The next evening we took the same route as the previous evening only to discover the dog was still there. Now I was curious.

Why would this dog stay here in the ditch? I noticed the dog had a tag of some sort. I had to get this dog some help. It was after business hours, so I assumed it would be best to go online and try to get help for this furry friend.

I spent quite a bit of time searching the net, filled out a form or two, but I just did not feel good about it.

The next evening we went back to the ditch.

Still there.

I found the Humane Society number and left a message.

I was not satisfied, so I called another number and got a recording that directed me to call dispatch. Dispatch took down the information, but I was still not satisfied.

I waited a while and went out in the cold to check — after stumbling around in the dark and almost giving up, I located the dog and spoke some comforting words. The Humane Society did return my call, but said it would be until morning before anything could be done. I definitely tossed and turned that night.

The next morning, I received a call from the officer on duty, Cheyenne Burton, and she located the dog. I was so relieved.

She later called back and said that the 13-yearold female had hip dysplasia and had been missing for 12 days.

She was reunited with her family and they were taking her to the vet to check her.

Every day is an adventure in life; you never know what treasure you will find!

Kristine Olson is a dedicated pet owner who enjoys swimming, gardening and walking with her dogs in northern Doña Ana County. She works as an accounting manager for Syndetix Inc. and is a member of the Las Cruces Desert Quenchers.

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