



Dedicated to finding loving, forever homes for any pet rat in need

March/April 2022

Welcome to the SECOND edition of the NEW Any Rat Rescue Newsletter!

We continue to invite you to share photos and stories with us for future newsletters!

Please email YOUR photos and stories to anyratnews@gmail.com to be included in future newsletters.

In this Edition
Logan's Girls
RAT BITE FEVER?



Photo Courtesy Brandi Saxton – It's a Rat's World

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

ARR OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate World Rat Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd - 10 am to 6 pm

3966 N. Granite Reef Road,
Scottsdale 85251

Held on the patio outside.
Refreshments and party favors!
New and gently used rat items
available for small donation.

Please wear a mask indoors.

Volunteer Hosts Needed

2 hour time slots.
Please call Jenna at 480-510-7282

Upcoming Adoption Event

Sunday, March 13th
10 am - 2 pm
Pet Supplies Plus
31319 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale 85266

Be sure to follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/AnyRatRescuePage>
to learn more about upcoming Pet Adoption Fairs!

Logan's Girls



I recently fostered three slightly older girls from a surrender. They were all so different. *Evening* was a black hoodie with a cute white streak down her nose, *Primrose* was a ruby-eyed Siamese, and *Desert* was a chubby apricot-colored dumbo. I thought they were all so beautiful that they would be adopted quickly.

But one month went by, then two, and soon it was six. *Evening* had been back and forth to the vet and needed a life-long regimen of medications to keep her respiratory illness at bay. I wondered if it was their age, or *Evening's* condition, or the fact that there were three of them that was keeping them from getting adopted.



Logan with Evening

Then one day the call came. A mother and son were interested in meeting them. Covid was raging so it was an unusual 'masked' meeting but, still, it seemed to be love at first sight. I found out that mom Debbie had scrolled through the rat offerings and directed son Logan toward other rats. How about younger rats? How about a pair of rats? But no matter what, Logan said, "No, these three."

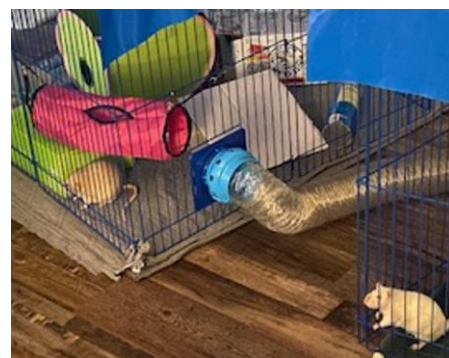
I said that was the reason it took so long for the girls to get a home. They were waiting for Logan. And I was right. Logan and Debbie are the perfect home for these three lovely girls.



Logan with Desert

When they got them home, the girls' cage went into Logan's room. He told his mom, "I'm so glad we got them. I love them!" Debbie can hear him talking to them all the time. Turns out Debbie loves them too. She bought two pens, ferret tunnels, houses, and toys. Logan has built a "rat city" of sorts by connecting the pens and filling them with boxes and containers and toys that he is always moving around to keep the girls stimulated. When Logan is away, the ratties keep Debbie company and she works on the "construction zone." This prompted Debbie's sister to observe "Gee, it's good to be a rat in your house." Yes it is! Thank you Logan and Debbie for giving these deserving girls such a wonderful, loving home.

- C.L.



Primrose & Desert explore "Rat City"

RAT BITE FEVER?

Any Rat Rescue takes in surrender rats from many sources and for many reasons. Sometimes families have to face difficult reasons for giving up their ratties. But this is the first time ARR has had to deal with Rat Bite Fever. So many of us have been working with rats for decades and have never heard of it let alone seen it. But one unfortunate Tucson family had to deal with just that.

Although mom, Jamie, had had rats, the family's first experience with rats came when they bought Trixie and Ruby from a pet shop. Later they added Latte and Cream. Now they had a group of four girls that belonged to and were loved by the entire family.

Mom Jamie was the main caretaker, cleaning the cages and making sure the girls had what they needed. But son Dax, age 13, helped with the food and water. He loved the girls and had them out of their cage for hours of playtime every day. He snuggled with them and kissed them on their heads and noses. They were a happy bunch.

One day Dax said he didn't feel well. The next day he started running a fever which Tylenol didn't lower. When his temperature reached 105, his parents rushed him to the hospital. He developed a hive-like rash on his hands, arms, and legs. Since the rash would come and go, the symptoms were mimicking Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease. And, since treatment protocol is just managing the symptoms, the hospital sent Dax home.

Despite care, Dax did not improve. He battled fever and chills. His parents took him to a walk-in clinic. Then it was home again. No one knew how to treat his symptoms.

When Dax's symptoms multiplied and grew worse, they went back to Diamond Children's Medical Center. Now the rash would reappear on his hands, arms, and legs, then disappear. He experienced severe pain in his hands and joints. It hurt too much to touch his body or to walk. His doctors feared that his liver and kidneys were being affected. His heart

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Any Rat Rescue is a network of volunteers. We need volunteers like YOU!

FOSTER OR QUARANTINE HOMES

We supply equipment and medical care.

Application at

http://www.anyratrescue.org/files/foster_app.pdf

CAGE MAKER

Do you know someone who could build wire and metal cages for ARR? Specifications will be provided. Please call Jenna, 480-510-7282

ADOPTION BAG ASSEMBLER

Assemble ARR adoption materials and place in adoption bags. Call Jenna, 480-510-7282

TRANSPORTERS

We need transporters who can move rats, medicine, and/or equipment around the metropolitan area.

Flexibility is helpful as needs are sporadic.

Please call Jenna, 480-510-7282

RAT BITE FEVER?

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rate was as high as 140. Although all the doctors at the hospital had looked at him, no one could definitively diagnose the problem. The best they could come up with was Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever from a tick bite. Finally, an infectious disease doctor came in. He asked what animals the family had at home. When they told him rats, he was sure of his diagnosis. Although he had only seen it once before in his entire career, he felt certain it was Rat Bite Fever.

Rat Bite Fever is found in both wild and fancy rats and, more rarely, other rodents. Rats are asymptomatic carriers, e.g. they do not show signs of the illness. There are no reliable numbers of how many fancy rats may be carriers.

Rat Bite Fever is caused by bacteria. As the name implies, it is usually thought to infect humans through an open wound. This was not the case with Dax. But because he cuddled and kissed his girls on the head so much, the family surmised he

must have ingested some infected rat saliva. We know how ratties like to groom themselves!

The good news is that Rat Bite Fever is rare. And once it is diagnosed, it can be cured with targeted antibiotics. Dax did very well once put on the right medicine.

The best way to guard against Rat Bite Fever is to keep your rats and cages clean. Wash your hands after handling your rats. Give them a treat rather than a kiss!



If you want to know more about Rat Bite Fever, check out: THE RAT HEALTH GUIDE
<https://ratguide.com/health/bacteria/rat-bite-fever.php>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
<https://www.cdc.gov/rat-bite-fever/>

HAMMOCKS

Ratties need them. We have them. Ours are four layers of hand-sewn cozy flannel, top stitched all around, and triple stitched where the pockets meet. They hang by sturdy loops. Throw them in the washer and dryer to clean. They come in four shapes and sizes. All are only \$10 each. All materials and labor are donated so every penny goes to help the rescue.

Now available at two locations:

East: call Jenna 480-510-7282 /
 (101 & Indian School)

South: call Cynthia 480-598-8540 /
 (I-10 & Chandler Blvd. / 202 & 40th St.)



“And Now, the Rest of the Story”

(Rat Bite Fever, part 2)

Being susceptible to Rat Bite Fever, Dax could no longer be around his beloved ratties. This is where the second part of the story begins.

When the family had their original little rat family of four, Trixie developed a small slow-growing lump under one arm. Jamie took her to an exotics vet who treated it as an abscess. He expressed it and sent her home on meds. But Jamie says that is when the real problem started. The wound grew to a large lump very quickly. When Jamie returned to the vet with Trixie, he suggested surgery for \$1000 but could not say Trixie would survive or surgery would solve the problem. Jamie took her home and the family made her comfortable and gave her lots of love until they felt it was kinder to euthanize her.

When Latte started to develop mammary tumors, Jamie was afraid all vets would want \$1000 for surgery that may or may not give her an extended quality of life. And now she was dealing with Dax's mystery illness. She felt bad she didn't take more time to discover if there might be other possibilities. But then the girls had to be relocated once they found out Dax was recovering from Rat Bite Fever (RBF).

They didn't want to put all the girls down. They didn't know if one or all had RBF. In any case, the rats hadn't done anything wrong. So Jamie looked for alternatives. The Humane Societies wouldn't take them due to the RBF history. Finally, she found ARR and our director told her to drive the girls up to Phoenix.

By the time the girls made the trip up from Tucson, Latte's tumors were very advanced. Most veterinarians would probably not attempt such an advanced case, but the vets associated with ARR have seen it all. Our vets are the best and you can see by the before and after photos that Latte came through the surgery just fine.



Before Surgery



After Surgery

She now has a chance at a good quality of life. Unfortunately, Ruby developed respiratory problems and did not respond to medical treatment. But the two remaining girls, now named Latte and Frappe, have been adopted by our Assistant Director and are living the high life!



Latte & Frappe in their new home

We help many rats like Latte.

Will you help us help them?

Send donations to Dove Valley Animal Hospital,
4815 Carefree Hwy, Ste. 107, Carefree Az 85331,
or call 480-595-5731.

Please ask them to designate the donation
for the Any Rat Rescue
account.

The ratties thank you!



Photo Courtesy of Brandi Saxton

*Happy Easter!
April 17, 2022*



Before you shop at Amazon, visit **Smile.Amazon.com** and select to support ARR.

Also, check out our **Amazon WISHLIST** at <https://amzn.to/3sLxrde>

Either way, ARR benefits while you shop.

We appreciate your support!

Wish List

Please consider donating the following:

- Used .05 insulin syringes with removable needles
- New and used towels, sheets and pillow cases
- New or gently used flannel or fleece fabric
- Hammocks
- Pipe cleaners
- Gift cards to:
Sprouts, Natural Grocers, Whole Foods, Traders Joe's

We now have three donation drop-off locations:

North: 101 & 7th St.,
call Keli, 602-989-1894

East: 101 & Indian School,
call Jenna, 480-510-7282

South: I-10 & Chandler Blvd. / 202 & 40th St.,
call Cynthia, 480-598-8540

How Cute is That??



Suki playing a harmonica

Photo courtesy of Tina Burt