



# Saddle Up

By Betty Swanson  
© 2008 The News



## Paw Prints

By Jill Jones  
Special to The News

### Mercury Rising

#### Keeping your pets safe in the heat

With leash in hand and your pet furiously wagging its tail behind you, you open the door to go for a walk and are hit with blast furnace-like heat - summer has arrived in the Valley.

If you were a savvy pet owner, you would turn around and hang up the leash, knowing it would be tempting fate to take Fido on a walk until late in the day but some well meaning pet owners would continue with their plans for a walk completely unaware they are treading a fine line between life and death for their pet. According to veterinarians, even a brief walk in the heat can be a death sentence to your pet. Hyperthermia (overheating) and eventually heat exhaustion can occur within minutes and can result in brain damage and even the death of your pet.

How many of us have witnessed a dog being walked in the heat of the day or made to walk across a hot parking lot as they follow their owner into the local pet store? These seemingly well-meaning owners are unaware of the pain the animal may be experiencing as its tender paws are subject to the searing hot pavement. Neither do they realize how much hotter the air temperature can be to their pets who are closer to the pavement.

Dogs and cats have very few sweat glands to aid in cooling, most of which are located in their footpads, so they feel the heat more intensely than us. Our pets rely on less effective means to maintain their body temperature - through the dilation of blood vessels in the face and ears, panting and air-flow through their coats.

While your pet's natural cooling abilities may help somewhat in warm weather, veterinarians warn that these measures are not particularly effective when the temperature hits the high 90's.



can induce shock); offer water to drink and get the animal to a vet clinic as soon as possible. Cats may refuse to drink, so water may need to be administered with an eyedropper or syringe. This should be done slowly; vets recommend about two drops at a time in the corner of the mouth, which should renew the natural desire to drink on its own. While on the way to the clinic, it is recommended that you cover the animal with cool wet towels or spray with cool, not ice cold water.

To enjoy a healthy happy summer with your pet and to avoid heat exhaustion Pet Place.com veterinarians recommend that you follow the following tips:

1. Keep your pet indoors. If you cannot keep your pet indoors make sure they have plenty of cool, clean water in a SPILL-PROOF container. A baby pool will provide ample water and also give your pet the chance for a cooling dip in the pool.

2. Brush your pet's coat to keep it free of mats. Talk to your vet or groomer before shaving your pet's coat. Bare skin can sunburn. Fur protects your pet from the heat, insects and stays wet after a dip in the pool or sprinkling from the hose.

3. Walk your pet during the cooler morning and evening hours; avoid the hot pavement that can burn and blister tender paw pads.

In addition to heatstroke, pets are also susceptible to sunburn, particularly those with light colored or thin coats. Sun exposure can lead to cancer, which I am experiencing first hand with my Italian Greyhound who was adopted from a rescue group when he was five-years-old. He had been left in a yard by prior owners and is now covered in skin cancer lesions, which need to be removed at least once a year. He underwent his most recent surgery last week. A total of 25 skin tumors were removed at a cost of \$900 dollars. Using sunscreen can avoid this costly and potentially lethal problem. If your dog is often exposed to the sun, ask your veterinarian to recommend a pet safe sunscreen product.

Your pets love you unconditionally and trust you with their lives; do your part as a responsible pet owner to keep them safe and healthy this summer and beyond.

## Desert Moon Tack Finds Local Storefront Home

Christa Donaldson and her Desert Moon Tack, (Arizona's Aussie Saddles), has found a permanent home in the old Basha's Plaza at 300 W. Apache Trail.

Last year, when I wrote a column about her, she was running her business out of a modified cargo trailer, a website and a cellphone. Christa now has a quaint little store in Suite 119 next to Captain's Bar on the west side of the vintage landmark plaza.

Christa wants to invite everyone to join the fun when she celebrates her Grand Opening on the July 4 holiday weekend. Stop by and pick up a 10 percent discount coupon off entire purchase that is valid July 4 through August 1st. Her hours are currently fluctuating a little, but generally she is there from noon to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

This is more good news for horse owners, especially those who prefer the Australian approach to horse tack, myself included. I love Australian saddles. They are lightweight to lift on a horse, comfortable, and furnish a safer more secure seat for the rider.

They are more comfortable for the horse - both because the tree padding can be adjusted to really fit your horse's back and because they put the rider in a better riding position. They also enable better leg contact with your horse because there is less "saddle leather" to deal with.

I have ridden them for the last 25 years and have as yet to find a downside to using them. They are a sort of cross between a Western and English saddle and offer the best advantages of both. If you have never tried one, I urge you to do so, particularly if you are part of the age group that I am the poster child for - those of us who don't "bounce" as well as we used to upon hitting the ground.



Christa Donaldson, owner of Desert Moon Tack (Arizona's Aussie Saddles) has opened a storefront in the old Basha's Plaza at 300 W. Apache Trail in Suite 119 (west side). The Grand Opening will be the weekend of July 4th.

I find them a more secure seat than even a Western saddle because of the high cantle and the poley pads. Poley pads are padded 2-3 inch high ridges which run alongside each side of the pommel. A rider can brace his/her thighs against them for added seat stability. It is as close to riding with a seat belt as one can get. If you have never watched the movie "Man from Snowy River," do so to get a first hand view of the stability and security of the saddle seat.

Christa's new store stocks everything in Australian Saddles and Trailgear and a whole lot more. She is an expert at fitting saddles and is glad to come make house calls to measure your horse. Aussie saddles work well on horses that are problematic to fit because using adjustable and additional padding (including wedge pads) can make for a comfortable fit on any horse's back.

She also carries Aussie, English and Western saddles on consignment if your pocketbook does not currently allow for the purchase of a brand spanking new saddle.

Christa is a dealer for Cashel

Products that make wonderful (in my opinion) fly masks, leg guards, seat savers, stirrup pads and other unique products. She will special order from the Cashel catalog and several other catalogs she has on the desk and the customer does not have to pay the shipping charges.

Unique Western gifts decorate the store, including art prints and notecards done by well-known local cowgirl artist Jeri Messamore. Also for sale are books, straw hats, bandanas and scarves, handmade leather items and soft halter ropes. She can custom cut Merino wool for saddle pads of any size, seat cushions, tack lining and even motorcycle and bicycle seats.

Christa still has her website at [www.desertmoontack.com](http://www.desertmoontack.com). Christa has customers and gets calls from people all over the state of Arizona, but she is happy to have found a home for her business right here in A.J. "I have a real good feeling about this spot," she said.

Who says that nothing new, interesting and fun ever happens in Apache Junction in the summertime?

## IMAGINE PREP... LEARNING AT THE SPEED OF PERSONAL POTENTIAL



### COLLEGE PREP. CAREER PREP. LIFE PREP. IMAGINE PREPARATORY AT APACHE JUNCTION

#### IMAGINE PREP...

- Empowers students to learn at the speed of personal potential... and live up to it!
- Equips students through a rigorous standards-based curriculum delivered through next-generation technology and project-based applications.
- Ensures a personalized learning community where students are well-known and challenged to meet high expectations.
- Transportation available

IMAGINE PREPARATORY AT APACHE JUNCTION  
1843 W. 16TH AVE.  
APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85220  
480-355-0530

TUITION  
FREE!

### PHASE ONE ENROLLING NOW: GRADES 9-10

[www.imagineprep.com](http://www.imagineprep.com)

## Artists! Sign Up Now For Space At November Art Show

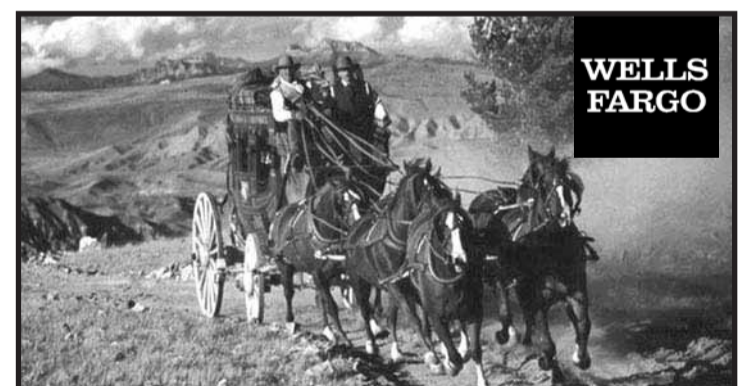
### CAC Jazz Ensemble to Play at 3rd Annual AJ Art Festival of the Superstitions

The sounds of hot and cool jazz will waft pleasantly over the festival grounds of the 3rd Annual AJ Art Festival of the Superstitions this fall in Apache Junction. Director Rick Moore and the CAC Jazz Ensemble band will perform at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 15, 2008. The art festival is being held again on the Superstition Mountain Campus of Central Arizona College in Apache Junction on Old West Highway east of Idaho Road. The ensemble consists of between 9 - 15 students who play at a professional caliber level. CAC has several campuses in Pinal County. Come out and experience our local college jazz band and some great local artists. The festival is free to the public.

As a major sponsor of the festival again this year, CAC will have an informational booth at the event. Several of the student organizations and clubs will display and exhibit during the event. Mudslingers, the student ceramics group, will have continual demonstrations of techniques for producing ceramics from pottery to sculpture throughout the festival. Their work will also be for sale.

DST Creative of Apache Junction is producing this art festival again and it is being held on Saturday and Sunday, November 15 & 16, 2008. Booths are available for artists to display and sell their original artworks and/or reproductions of them. Sponsorships are available to businesses looking to gain market exposure. For information call or email DST Creative, 480-474-1137 or [dst-creative@hotmail.com](mailto:dst-creative@hotmail.com)

# Art Show



WELLS  
FARGO

#### Working For Your Business

The Wells Fargo team at Apache Junction is committed to helping our customers achieve financial success. Stop by soon to discover how we can help you get to *The Next Stage*®

231 S. Phelps Dr.

480-982-1039 • 480-982-1732 (fax)

© 2006 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.  
All rights reserved. Member FDIC.

[wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com)

Valleywide Delivery Open to the Public Low Prices

# ALL ROCK SUPPLY

SALE  
Surface  
Select Boulders  
\$10 ea.

480.288.1458  
• GRANITE • BOULDERS  
• SAND & MORE

Dust Control, Erosion Control, Soil Stabilization  
950 East Baseline • [www.allrocksupply.net](http://www.allrocksupply.net)