

Snowmobiler rescued from Rabbit Ears Pass

Matt Stensland
Steamboat Today

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — Routt County Search and Rescue volunteers braved blizzard conditions Sunday to rescue an injured snowmobiler on Rabbit Ears Pass.

The Search and Rescue members were called to help the 62-year-old Kremmling man at about 4:15 p.m.

"When we got up there, the wind was just howling," member Kristia Check-Hill said. "The wind was just

blowing snow everywhere."

Fortunately, the man was less than a mile away from U.S. Highway 40 in a meadow near mile marker 153.

The man had been riding with two other people.

Check-Hill said she believed the man hit a depression, and his body was thrown into the sled.

On Monday morning, Check-Hill learned the man had seven rib fractures.

Search and Rescue was called to help because the injured man was unable to ride a snowmobile.

A team of four Search and Rescue volunteers went in to rescue the man.

While responding to the rescue, the Search and Rescue volunteers were told about a 26-year-old man who got separated from his group while snowmobiling on Buffalo Pass.

The man showed up, and Search and Rescue did not need to respond.

To reach Matt Stensland, call 970-871-4247, email mstensland@SteamboatToday.com or follow him on Twitter @SBTStensland.

I've really gone and done it this time

At the end of July last year, I lost my dog Skippy. So many of you emailed or called with sympathy and



Laura Tyler
Dog's Eye View

understanding about losing such a special companion dog. My grief ran deep and emptied my soul out at her loss. I was honored with 11 years of constant companionship, training, playing and being my travel buddy and confidant.

We had an amazing relationship and a great time together. I spent the first four weeks after her death going through every avenue of grief, guilt and anger and emptiness. I found great comfort in spending time with clients and students and their dogs. My little dog Max came to my rescue as only a little furry Min Pin munchkin can. He stepped in and kept me company and played nose work games and kept me smiling.

Then one day I took the plunge. I turned to Petfinder and started searching through hundreds of dog pictures in hopes that one would touch my heart and get my engine running again. That was an incredible experience.

And now four months after her adoption, this little dog has shown me who she is. It takes time to peel the onion to see how many layers of behaviors she will share with me. I've been

impressed, blown away, disappointed, challenged and comforted by her companionship. The journey has really just begun as we discover how much socialization she still needs and how many life experiences trigger her defensive mechanisms.

She seems to "bark first and ask questions later" and needs more space to explore and determine whether people she meets are safe. Novel sights and sounds put her into alert mode. So, we have our work cut out to help her adapt to an active social life with me and support her as she overcomes some things that she finds frightful.

There are no shortcuts to any behavior modification program. Ruby and I work on trust and communication first. We need that for her to look to me to help her feel safe. And I need to be one step ahead and be ready to intervene to prevent her defensive displays. Space means safety for any dog, and each dog has an individual threshold.

The good news is that she is highly motivated to learn new things and play every game I introduce her to. She's a willing nose work dog and will take her Odor Recognition Test at the end of this month. My work ahead of time isn't so much practicing nose work as it is entering and exiting the building with her "comfort zone" in mind. I know that within the next couple of years this will all be a distant memory, and her ability to search in any environment will develop.

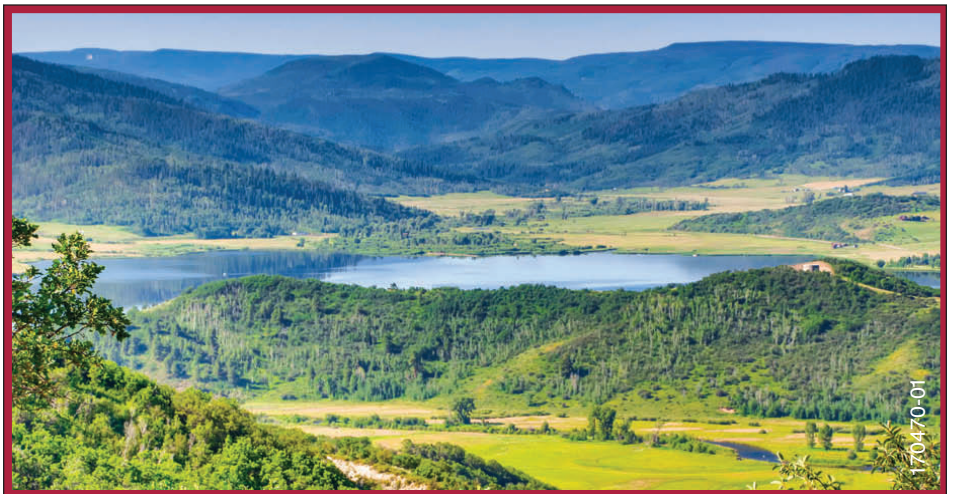
She learns new tricks the first time we introduce them and loves to practice them on a daily basis. Trick training helps us build more communication and deepen our trust bond.

Foundation training gives her a "menu" of other behaviors to choose from instead of her first defensive reaction of barking. I want her to be able to turn to me and focus on me to move past the things that give her pause. She is slowly but steadily improving. She is learning to trust the people we do nose work with and gladly greets familiar individuals.

Ruby, thank you for coming into my life. It started with loving the look of you and morphed into wondering what I was thinking. And now I see her potential and her uncertainty more clearly, and I will learn what she needs to help her grow into an amazing life companion.

Who knew? None of us know exactly what we're getting when we take on a new puppy or adopt a new dog. I've really gone and done it this time. I am excited to explore the future with Ruby Monday. Happy first birthday, Ruby!

Laura Tyler is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer with 30+ years of experience and has earned Associate certification through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants as well as Certified Nose Work Instructor through the National Association of Canine Scent Work™. She owns Total Teamwork Training LLC here in Northwest Colorado.



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