



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Dogs under construction

Construction safety officer, Pearl, wears a pink hard hat while keeping work sites in compliance with rules. She monitors workers safety, and when they are injured, she applies first aid or calls 911. She is a purr-fect multi-tasker as a flagger doing traffic control, guiding pedestrians, keeping cars from colliding, all the while supervising construction materials; steel beams being off loaded from trucks, cranes and zoom booms.

During coffee breaks, Pearl walks her two Chihuahuas, Billy and Pepe.

"My boss and the crew like dogs," said Pearl. "One advantage of having dogs on sight is that when the office is empty Billy sounds his high pitched bark-alarm when anyone enters.

Billy was my birthday present. I found him on a dog adoption sight, used GPS, and drove 1 1/2 hours into the boonies for him."

Pepe, born in Oregon, was flown into Vancouver, Canada on Christmas Eve. A lady picked him up, then for some unexplained reason, a day later, dumped him off in a humane shelter's parking lot after closing time.

"My friend fostered Pepe for a week," said Pearl, "then I puppy-sat him while she was on vacation. All the little guy wanted to do was hide. When my friend returned to pick him up, Pepe was sitting beside me, and he squished into my side. It was

obvious that he wasn't planning on leaving and he didn't!"

One day after work, her son, Duncan, the dogs, and Pearl were at a "Bark Park" when they saw a crowd of people watching a man trying to untangle a flapping, upside down crow entangled in fishing line, from a tree.

Always ready to respond to an emergency, she offered to climb the tree. Duncan said, "No! The bird will peck you to death."

Pearl, raised on a farm, knew how to handle birds, so she said, "Give me a boost up." And up she went.

At first the frightened crow pecked at her, but with her knowing touch, he relaxed, as she helped him. The other crows, in the nearby trees, were cawing up a symphony, but none interrupted their buddy's rescue mission.

This was no easy task. While untangling the bird, Pearl gently talked to it. The fishing line was wrapped tightly around a branch and its right foot. Using her "on the spot" safety skills, she bit the line, breaking it, and released its foot. The bird would not put any weight on his sore leg, so Pearl gently massaged his leg and foot.

"His leg was loose and unresponsive to my touch," said Pearl. "I worried it was broken or that the circulation had been cut off too long and died. After the massage, he immediately gripped my finger with the right foot. The crowd and I were ju-

bilant that it just needed rest and massage, which is good for all of us!"

Before the beautiful wild-black bird flew away, Pearl kissed it on its head. She then opened her hands. The crow spread his wings and flew away.

"I was thrilled," said Pearl.

"Imagine rescuing a bird! Undeniably, discarded fishing lines harms animals. I have seen a deer struggling entangled in a wad of line by its horns and right foot. I trained my children to pick up pop cans, plastic drinking pop can holders, and plastic bags, because discarded garbage starves and kills land and sea wild life."

Pearl has two confessions, "Pepe does the 'grandpa dance. He stands up on his hind legs, tucks in his three chins, and does a weird wiggle reminding me of dancing grandpas at weddings. And Pepe has a thing for Victoria's Secret! He eats my underwear! Life with animals



never has dull moments!"

TIPS

"At work, I keep my pockets full of a variety of dog treats. It is a win-win situation. I've learned the pet parents and dogs' names, the crew love dogs, and the dogs love the treats!"

Share your pet tips and tales. angelscribe@msn.com

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<https://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales>

Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789

A word from the Editor

They say the only constant in life is change. That may be true but you all have been incredibly patient with us as we revamped, renewed and readied for the next 128 years.

Over the last three and a half months we have updated the front page to reflect the modern times we're in but without sacrificing where we came from and the century of public service The Sentinel has completed for Cottage Grove. We've done away with the Friday Update and replaced it with Capitol Beat; a column that hopefully keeps you up-to-date on the happenings at the state legislature and how the laws it passes and debates can affect us here in Cottage Grove. We've begun adhering to our century's-old commitment to cover North Douglas County as well as Lane County and we no longer use articles that were written outside of Cottage Grove and gleaned from a third-party news site. In fact, our story count has increased substantially and we seemed to have finally found a proof-reading process that eliminates those pesky typos and errors on the front page and throughout the paper.

We've made these changes with you, our readers, in mind, striving to bring you accurate, sourced and local news that is worth paying for and informs you on issues important to you and this community. We hope you've come to appreciate The Sentinel's transformation.

But now, we ask you to bear with us as we embark on the home stretch of our renovation: a new website.

While we are excited about this new way to spread the news, it's important to note that the changes come from the top. All newspapers in our company have undergone a digital face lift and as such, only so much of the design and user interaction is under our control. That being said, we doubt their will be any issues going forward. The new website is faster, cleaner, easier to navigate and allows us to provide the entire newspaper to our digital readers, as well as keep you updated on news throughout the week. No more waiting until Wednesday to read breaking news. Readers who subscribe will now be able to read stories in a timely manner, view photo galleries and watch video of public meetings and events when included in the story.

If you're already a subscriber and we have your email, you're covered. You will be able to access all of the stories, photos, videos and audio on our new website. If you're not already a subscriber, you will be able to view up to 10 stories per month before we ask you to subscribe. However, some stories will be behind a blocked pay wall you will not be able to reach even if you have yet to use your free 10 stories. I promise they will never be stories imperative to your safety and we will never hide information about public meetings or breaking news that is important to you. However, 'enterprise stories' such as 'The top 10 cold cases in Cottage Grove' may end up behind that hard wall. It's not imperative to your safety and it isn't a matter of public health or knowledge but it sure would be fun to read. And we want you to read it but we'd also love for you to subscribe. It helps us keep the lights on and the presses running.

So that's it, we're in the home stretch. We hope you check out the new site. Let us know what you think and if you'd like to subscribe, come on in or call and we'll get you taken care of. If not, you have 10 free stories to read a month. We hope you enjoy them and continue to read The Sentinel.



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