

PARENTS TALK BACK

Paralyzed chicken teaches compassion

Sweet Pea looked a bit dizzy, wobbly on her feet that morning.

Maybe she has an infection, Ayla Abbassi thought. The Abbassi family has a menagerie of barnyard animals around their suburban home in Ballwin, Missouri. They share a four-acre, wooded lot with two dogs, two cats, three ducks and 12 chickens — including Sweet Pea, a 4-month-old silkie bantam.

Ayla moved Sweet Pea indoors once she got sick. By the third day, the chick's back wings were splitting and her legs were buckling under her weight. Abbassi, who works as an IT project manager, called around to find a vet who treated chickens.

She took her to the nearby Family Pet Hospital. Dr. Hallie Feagans called her later that day and said that the chicken likely had Marek's disease, a common viral disease affecting poultry. Backyard chickens have become increasingly popular pets. Feagans raises 30 chickens herself, and sees about one or two a week at the hospital. They can be difficult to diagnose and treat. While there's no cure for Marek's disease, which causes paralysis, Feagans said Sweet Pea could still possibly pull through after three or four weeks. Some chickens survive the illness.

"It depends how much work you want to put into it," Feagans told Ayla. "She still has a chance." That was enough for Ayla. She picked up Sweet Pea and took her home to her three daughters. "I wanted my girls to feel and see compassion," she said. She told them that one day it could be their parents who were really dependent and helpless. "You need to practice being compassionate whenever the situation presents itself — no matter how small."

For the next two and a half weeks, Ayla or her daughters massaged Sweet Pea's legs twice a day. Ayla did water therapy daily in the bathroom sink with the chicken, trying to help her build strength in her legs. She fashioned a chicken diaper out of a sock and sanitary napkin Sweet Pea could wear while she scooted around the house. They made a sling out of a plastic grocery bag to help her "walk" upright with some assistance. Her 6-year-old daughter, Zayna, read stories to Sweet Pea nightly and carted her around in a pink-trimmed baby-doll stroller.

Sweet Pea got playtime with her fowl friends every evening.

The chicken basked in the attention.

Ayla felt a little



AISHA SULTAN
Parents Talk Back

overwhelmed by the amount of care the sick chick needed, in addition to her life as a busy working parent. Her co-workers inquired about the status of her ailing chicken daily.

People go to extraordinary lengths regularly to care for their pets and possibly extend their lives. Not many would go to such trouble for an animal you can buy for \$1.50 a pound at the grocery store and serve for dinner. But when raised as pets, chickens can have distinct personalities, and the Abbassis described Sweet Pea as small but mighty.

Despite the nurturing care, Sweet Pea wasn't improving. In fact, she was getting worse and her breathing had become labored. Ayla took her back to the vet. In her heart, she knew she was not going to see Sweet Pea again.

"I remember holding her in the office and saying, 'Goodbye, my darling. I'm sorry I failed you,'" she said.

The assistant at the vet's office told her not to say that — "You worked so hard," she told her.

Ayla cried the entire way home and waited for news. Feagans called her later that afternoon. The chicken was showing signs of respiratory struggles. She was on oxygen at the hospital.

"What would you do if you were in my shoes?" Ayla asked the vet.

There was a long pause. "Ayla, I would let her go. I don't think she will get better."

Sweet Pea died on Aug. 18. She had lived for about a month after she got sick.

The vet didn't charge for the medicine, the last appointment or Sweet Pea's cremation, even though Abbassi insisted that she wanted to pay. Feagans refused to charge her.

"I know she worked really, really hard to save that little thing," Feagans said.

A few days later, instead of a bill, a handwritten card arrived in the mail. Feagans wrote a note thanking the Abbassis for the love and compassion they had provided Sweet Pea.

"She was very lucky to be part of a such a loving family," she wrote. "I wish every pet was treated as well and given as many chances as Sweet Pea was."

Ayla said Feagans made her feel that Sweet Pea was a lot more important than "just a chicken."

And, to them, she was.

Aisha Sultan is a St. Louis-based journalist who studies parenting in the digital age while trying to keep up with her tech-savvy children. Find her on Twitter: @AishaS.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16

VFW COWBOY BREAKFAST, 6-10 a.m., Stillman Park, 400 S.E. Byers Ave.

AMERICAN INDIAN BEAUTY PAGEANT, 9 a.m., Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave.

WESTWARD HO! PARADE, 10 a.m., Dorion and Court avenues, Pendleton. Pendleton's signature totally non-motorized parade begins at Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., travels east to Southeast Fifth Street, and then west on Court to the Round-Up Grounds.

DAVIS SHOWS NW CARNIVAL, noon to closing, south end of Main Street. Gate price \$30.

PENDLETON ROUND-UP, 1:15 p.m. main rodeo performance, Round-Up Arena. \$21-\$28. (www.pendletonroundup.com).

MAIN STREET FREE SHOW, 2 p.m. to midnight, 100-500 block Main Street: Marty Davis, Carrie Cunningham and the Six Shooters, Randy Linder, Brady Goss, Joe Slick Band, Trav'n Opry, Steve the Pretty Good (magic), Brian Ledbetter (mentalists), Stoddard Band, Rock Bottom Boys, L-Bow the Clown, The Misadventures of Cap'n Arrr, face painting.

MECHANICAL BULL, 4 p.m. to close, 200 block Main Street.

ROUND-UP CALENDAR



EO file photo by Joe Tierney
Joseph Jensen, of Pendleton, rides the mechanical bull on Main Street during last year's Round-Up.

Fee.

THE EOSCENES, 7 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Bluegrass and roots music returns for annual Round-Up concerts. \$12. Reservations advised. (541-278-9201).

HAPPY CANYON INDIAN PAGEANT & WILD WEST SHOW, 7:45 p.m., centennial celebration of night show. \$10-\$17 (www.happycanyon.com).

GOLDIE'S BAR AT THE CANYON, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., drinks, dancing, gaming. 21-and-older.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

VFW COWBOY BREAKFAST, 6-10 a.m., Stillman Park, 400 S.E. Byers Ave.

TRIBAL CEREMONIAL DANCING, 9 a.m., Round-Up Arena

Friday Morning

	STATION		6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	AgDay	Hot/ Cleve.	Good Day Spokane				Paid	RecRehab	Steve Harvey		Crime Watch Daily	
	KPTV	3	Good Day Oregon at 6		Good Day Oregon				Good Day		The 700 Club		Paid	Paid
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	News	News	CBS This Morning (N)				Harry		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
	KOIN	19	KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m.		CBS This Morning (N)				Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	Wake Up Northwest		Today Miley Cyrus, Eddie Murphy, Ted Danson				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Million?	Million?
	KGW	8	KGW News at Sunrise		Today Miley Cyrus, Eddie Murphy, Ted Danson				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Portland Today	
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	Northwest	Northwest	Good Morning America (N)				Live! With Kelly (N)		The View (N)		Paid	Middle
	KATU	5	KATU News Morning		Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View (N)		Live! With Kelly (N)	
PBS	(31) KTNW		Stretch	W.L.Yoga	Wild Kratts	Jet Go!	Nature Cat	C.George	D.Tiger	D.Tiger	Sesame St. Peg + Cat		DinoTrain	Sit and Fit
	(59) OPB	13	Stretch	Jet Go!	Nature Cat	C.George	D.Tiger	D.Tiger	Sesame St. Peg + Cat		DinoTrain	DinoTrain	SuperW!	Thomas

AFTERNOON

	STATION		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	Paid	Pat. Court	Divorce	Divorce	Judge Mathis		The People's Court		Paid	2½Men	Mike&M.	Mike&M.
	KPTV	3	E. Stanton	Teen News	OutSpace	Y. Icons	Am Athlete	Missing	TMZ Live!		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	5 O'Clock	News
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	NameG.	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		Let's Make a Deal		Dr. Phil (N)		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	News
	KOIN	19	News	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		The Doctors (N)		Dr. Phil (N)		KOIN 6 News at 4 p.m.		News	News
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	TMZ	Paid	Days of Our Lives		Hot Bench	Hot Bench	Wendy Williams		Ellen DeGeneres (N)		News	NBC News
	KGW	8	KGW New	Paid	Days of Our Lives		T.D. Jakes		Ellen DeGeneres (N)		KGW News		KGW News	NBC News
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	The Chew		General Hospital		The Doctors (N)		Rachael Ray (N)		Minute	Minute	News	News
	KATU	5	The Chew		General Hospital		Harry		Afternoon Live		KATU News @ 4		News	News
PBS	(31) KTNW		Charlie Rose		Ming	Quilt Day	C.George	Thomas	Arthur	Nature Cat	Jet Go!	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts	Business
	(59) OPB	13	Paint This	Cooking	Charlie Rose		Nature Cat	Bob Build	Cat/ Hat	Jet Go!	Speaks	WordGirl	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts

EVENING

	STATION		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	Modern Fam "Grill, Interrupted"	Modern Family "Spring Break"	Girls "And the Grate Expectations"	Seahawks All Access	Chef The remaining three will have 60 minutes to prepare an amazing appetizer dish.		Chef The contestants have one hour to create entrées and an hour to create a dessert.		FOX News First at Ten		:35 Law:CI A car bomb explosion shatters the future of a young family with a hidden past.	
	KPTV	3	6 O'Clock News	Timbers in 30	Family Feud	Family Feud	MasterChef "The Finale Pt. 1"		MasterChef "The Finale Pt. 2"		10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	Action News at 6 p.m.	Inside Edition	The Big Bang Theory	The Simpsons "Bart's New Friend"	Big Brother A group of strangers lives together in a house outfitted with cameras & microphones.		Hawaii Five-0 In order to stop a meth epidemic, McGarrett & Danny go undercover as drug pilots.		Blue Bloods Serial killer Thomas Wilder attaches a message to his latest victim that taunts Danny.		Action News at 11:00 p.m.	
	KOIN	19	KOIN 6 News at 6	Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother (N)		Hawaii Five-0		Blue Bloods "Down the Rabbit Hole"		KOIN 6 News/ 11	
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	Local News	Family Feud	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	American Ninja Warrior "National Finals Week 3" The competitors who completed the City Finals courses try the National Finals course.		Dateline NBC The news magazine presents investigative features & breaking news coverage.		Dateline NBC		KGW News:35 Tonight at 11	
	KGW	8	KGW News at 6:00 p.m.	Live at Seven		Inside Edition	Amer.Ninja The competitors who completed the City Finals courses try the National Finals course.		Dateline NBC		20/20 A combination of interviews, feature stories and hard-hitting investigative reports.		Local News at 11 /Kimmel This distinctive late-night talk show features celebrity guests, bands & comedy.	
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	Extra	Local News at 6:30	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Last Man Standing "The Ring"		Dr. Ken "Ken Tries Standup"		Shark T. Features a tasty way to improve the ice cream cone; reinvented kid stroller with a twist.		20/20	
	KATU	5	KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man "The Ring"		Dr. Ken		Shark Tank		20/20	
PBS	(31) KTNW		PBS NewsHour		BBC World News		Potus 2016		Washington Week (N)		Art in the Twenty-First Century "Chicago" (N)		Art in the 21st Cen. "Mexico City" (N)	
	(59) OPB	13	Expeditions	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Washington Week (N)		Idols "Burt Lancaster"		A Place to Call Home		:45 Place Call Home "The Welcome Mat"	

	STATION	PEN	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30										
CABLE	A&E	52	The First 48 "Cold Light of Day"		The First 48 "Lying in Wait/ With This Ring"		The First 48 "Blood Lust"		The First 48 "Snapshot"		The First 48 "Down on Bourbon/ Deadly Trap"		:05 The First 48 "Stray Shot"											
	AMC	60	☞ Men in Black A cop is recruited by a secret organization to help control Earth's alien population.					☞ *** Ghostbusters Bill Murray. Three parapsychologists open a ghost removal business in New York.					☞ *** Ghostbusters II ('89, Com) Sigourney Weaver, Bill Murray.											
	ANPL	24	Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters (N)		:05 Treehouse Masters											
	CMT	43	☞ *** Overboard Goldie Hawn.		☞ ** While You Were Sleeping ('95, Com) Sandra Bullock.		Broken Skull Challen		Broken Skull Challen		Broken Skull Challen													
	CNBC	72	Undercover Boss		Profit "Flex Watches"		The Profit "Dilascia"		Cleveland Hustles		Cleveland Hustles		Paid		Paid									
	CNN	68	☞ Unfinished Business: The Essential Hillary...					CNN Tonight		This Is Life		This Is Life		This Is Life "Jungle Fix"										
	DISC	51	Bering Sea Gold		Bering Sea Gold		Sea Gold "The Plague"		Bering Sea Gold (N)		Backers "Taco Hell" (N)		Bering Sea Gold											
	DISN	26	Backsta. Underc.		Bizaard. Elena (N)		Bunk'd (N) Gir! M. (N)		Liv Maddie Liv Maddie		Star vs.Evil Star vs.Evil		LEGO Free Bunk'd											
	ESPN	33	NCAA Football Baylor at Rice Site: Rice Stadium -- Houston, Texas (L)					SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter										
	ESPN2	34	SportsC.		NCAA Football Arizona State at University of Texas at San Antonio (L)					Baseball T.		J & J (N)		Outside the Lines		J & J								
	FNC	66	The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		On the Record											
	FOOD	61	Diners		Diners		Diners		Diners		Diners (N)		Burgers (N) Diners		Diners		Diners							
	FREE	32	:15 ☞ *** WALL-E ('08, Ani) Elissa Knight, Ben Burt.					☞ *** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory					The 700 Club											
	FX	65	☞ ** American Reunion Jason Biggs.					☞ ** Grown Ups ('10, Com) Kevin James, Adam Sandler.					☞ ** Grown Ups Adam Sandler.											
	GOLF	68	Golf Cent.		LPGA Golf The Evian Championship		Round 2 Site: Evian Resort Golf Club -- Evian-les-Bains, France					Golf												
	GSN	76	Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		MindMan		MindMan							
HALL	87	Last Man		Last Man		Last Man		Last Man		Chesapeake Shores		Middle		Middle		G. Girls	G. Girls							
HGTV	62	H.Hunt		H.Hunt		H.Hunt		H.Hunt		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		H.Hunt (N)		House (N)		H. Hunt	House					
HIST	50	Aliens "Emperors, Kings and Pharaohs"				Ancient Aliens "Aliens and Ancient Engineers"		Ancient Aliens "The Einstein Factor"		Ancient Aliens "The Aliens Wars"		Aliens The Dogone people believe they own a galaxy given to them by a star god named Amma.												
LIFE	29	Bring It!		Bring It!		Bring It!		Fan Chat (N)		Bring It! (N)		The Rap Game (N)		The Rap Game										
NICK	27	H.Danger		H.Danger		Crashlet		Mega Life		All In/ Cam GShakers		Full House		Full House		Full House		Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends			
ROOT	37	Mariners All Access		MarinersPr e-game (L)		MLB Baseball Houston Seattle, Wash. (N)		Astros at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field --		Post-game MLB Baseball Houston Astros at (L) Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field														
SPIKE	42	Cops "In Arizona"		Cops		Cops "Odd Arrests #3"		Cops		Cops		Bellator MMA Fighters battle for \$100,000 and a shot at the title.		:15 MMA "Greatest Hits Volume 1"										
SYFY	67	☞ *** The Blair Witch Project					Z Nation "No Mercy" (SP) (N)					Dark Matter (N)		Z Nation "No Mercy"										
TBS	59	Seinf. "The Checks"		Seinfeld		Eleague "Extra: NA Qualifier Final" (N)		Big Bang Theory		Big Bang Theory		Big Bang Theory		Big Bang Theory		Seinfeld		Seinf. "The Susie"	☞ *** Role Models. Seann William Scott.					
TCM	56	☞ A Covenant With Death George Maharis.			☞ French Connection (Adult)			☞ Night Moves A detective tracks down a missing teenager & uncovers more than he expected.					:05 The Split ('68, Cri) Jim Brown.											
TLC	49	Yes Dress		Yes Dress		Dateline "True Lies"		JonBenet: An American Murder Mystery (N)					:05 JonBenet											
TNT	57	Bones		Bones		☞ *** We're the Millers Jason Sudeikis.					:15 ☞ ** Date Night ('10, Com) Tina Fey.													
UNI	21	Includio		Noticiero		La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Tres veces Ana		El color de la pasion		Impacto		Noticie.								
USA	58	Law & Order: S.V.U.		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern						
WE	118	☞ P.S. I Love You		☞ *** P.S. I Love You ('07, Dra) Gerard Butler, Hilary Swank.		☞ *** P.S. I Love You ('07, Dra) Gerard Butler, Hilary Swank.					W&Grace					W&Grace		W&Grace		W&Grace				
WGN		Person of Interest			☞ *** Die Hard II: Die Harder ('90, Act) Bruce Willis.			Mother		Mother		Mother		Mother		Raising		Raising						
STZ ENC	644	:15 ☞ *** Big Hero 6 ('14, Ani) Ryan Potter.					☞ ** I, Robot ('04, Sci-Fi) Will Smith.					☞ *** Untraceable Diane Lane.					Movie							
HBO	518	☞ *** The Fantastic Four				:45 1stLook		☞ *** Michael Clayton Tom Wilkinson.					Bill Maher (N)		HighMain		BillMaher							
HBO2	520	Ballers		Canelo :50 ☞ *** Jurassic World ('15, Adv) Chris Pratt.		☞ *** Ted 2 ('15, Com) Seth MacFarlane.					☞ *** Everest													
HBO3	521	☞ Shutter		:50 ☞ *** Jupiter Ascending ('15, Sci-Fi) Mila Kunis.					☞ *** The Bourne Ultimatum Julia Stiles.					☞ Dumb & Dumber To										
MAX	549	☞ *** The Departed Leonardo DiCaprio.					:55 ☞ *** Mad Max: Fury Road Tom Hardy.					Quarry "Figure Four"					Quarry "Figure Four"							
SHOW	578	☞ *** Shooter			:15 ☞ *** Big Eyes ('14, Bio) Amy Adams.					Masters' Sex "Freefall"					Guns N' Roses (N)					:35 Masters				
STARZ	621	Movie		:35 ☞ *** True Lies ('94, Act) Jamie Lee Curtis.					☞ *** Star Wars: The Force Awakens					:20 ☞ There's Some...										