



## Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

### Canadian Pet Columnist's Pets

While in Vancouver, BC, Canada, I enjoyed reading dog trainer Joan Klucha's weekly "Canine Connection" pet column. She has been an integral part of the North Shore News since 1998.

Klucha, who has always loved animals, grew up on a lakeside farm in Ontario, Canada. Her pet chicken lived in her bedroom for a few months, and observing her pet rabbits rapidly multiply "... taught me about birth control at a young age," said Joan. "Living isolated on a farm, I became creative, having a pet pigeon, barn cats, a pony, horse and dogs as my friends.

My love of pets carved my career — all by 'accident'! Twenty years ago, I vowed that my Doberman puppy, Alex, would be an amazing dog, nothing like the stereotype aggressive Doberman. So, I enrolled us both into a Human Dog Leadership course. At the time, I was involved in personal fitness training and when one of my clients brought her dog to class... he was a nightmare! I volunteered to train him and she was pleased with his paws-itive changes. A few weeks later, one of her friends phoned asking me to train her dog! Just like that I was in the dog-training business! A few years later, I approached the Vancouver, B.C. Police K9 unit and asked if they would like help training their dogs. The sergeant was open to the idea! So, I began working with their upstanding purrs-onal's puppies and dogs doing quarry work and tracking.

This is about the same way that I ended up as a pet columnist. All of a sudden! For a few weeks, I was helping a woman train her dog, and one day I suggested that I submit a pet column to her newspaper. The editor loved the idea, and that was 20 years ago. Like Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe", my column is a passion, teaching readers canine wisdom, and thereby creating better lives for both reader and canine.

At the moment, I have three amazing dogs and a horse that all have very different personalities and energy levels.

Piper is a 10-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer (my favorite breed of dog) and my Prince Charming. He's an easy dog to train even with his bundle of energy. He's a big boy at 95 pounds and very affectionate. When he curls up beside me he rests his big head on my lap like a little guy.

Zumi is a 12-year-old Czech bred German Shepherd. She was originally destined to be part of the Vancouver Police Department's K9 breeding program, but she was rejected because of her hips, so I was allowed to keep her. She is gorgeous — jet-black, no tan markings and is so beautifully put together. Zumi is very protective and loyal. She would give her life for me. It brings me to tears thinking of her devotion to my safety. At all times, Zumi is never more than five feet away from me. She takes her job of being my personal bodyguard very seriously.

Raider, a goof ball, is a two-year-old Border Collie/Cattle dog mix that weighs 45 pounds. Compared to my other dogs, he is a little guy. He is an affectionate dog with a HIGH energy level. Even so, he is very manageable because, first, I was aware he would be and, second, I know how to work with dogs to keep his energy in check. He is incredibly smart and loves to jump. When Raider gets excited, he jumps straight up from the ground and back down like he is on an invisible trampoline.

My amazing horse, Tex, is an eight-year-old quarter horse. I've had him since he was a year and a half. He is gorgeous now and he receives a lot of attention from people.

When I bought him for \$500 he was an ugly duckling. He looked like a llama with a long ugly shaggy white coat. He was covered in lice and had an abscessed foot. I put him on the best feed I could afford, gave him some kind gentle training and voila! Eight year later he turned into another Prince Charming. Tex is gentle, kind, honest and sensitive. He's taught me many lessons on trust. The previous own-



Courtesy Photo

Canadian Pet Columnist Joan with her horse, Tex.

ers didn't appreciate what they had underneath that scruffy sickly looking colt. Their loss, my gain!

I don't compete with him, so he's my 'get out and have fun horse'. He's really a big dog that's playful and always looking for fun mischief. I've taught him to come to a whistle and his name, just like a dog, and posted a video of it on my k9 kinship Facebook page.

Thank you for letting me share my pets in your column!" Joan's website is [www.k9kinship.com](http://www.k9kinship.com)

### TIPS

Next week's Tips n Tales features Joan's pet tips.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### Chamber choir concert

The University of Oregon Chamber Choir will present a concert at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m. It will be a program of sacred and secular music, both old and new. The concert is free, but there will be a free-will offering to help with the choir's expenses when they go to a festival in Germany. There will be a reception following in the parish hall.

### Tonewood Trio

Jazz ensemble Tonewood Trio brings its mellow tunes with reeds and tight harmonies to the Village Green Resort for a free show on Saturday, March 26 from 7-10 p.m. The Village Green is located at 725 Row River Road.

### Hiatt at the Opal Center

The Opal Center announces that singer-songwriter Lilly Hiatt will perform there on Wednesday, April 1 at 8 p.m.

Hiatt is the daughter of celebrated musician John Hiatt, whose songs have been recorded by the likes of Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris and Bonnie Raitt during the course of his 40-year career.

Lilly is supporting her second CD, Royal Blue, with a national tour.

The Opal Center is located at 513 Main Street in downtown Cottage Grove.

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**EASTER HAPPENINGS**  
**April 5, 2015**

**Delight Valley Church of Christ**  
 33087 Saginaw Road East, Cottage Grove  
 541-942-7711

**9:30 am** Breakfast in the improved Fellowship Hall  
**10 am** Donuts and Hot Chocolate in the Gym  
**10:30 am** Worship Service starts in the Gym  
**11 am** Kids leave for a Special program in the Chapel  
**11 am** One man play "Peter's Second Chance"

**After the Worship Service, there will be a 5,000 Egg Easter Egg Hunt! Please join us!**

**THANK YOU**

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