



# Pet Tips'n Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

## Leash-Training People

Dog trainer and Canadian pet columnist Joan Klu-cha shares her insights on 'why' to walk dogs on a leash.

"I'm weary of hearing a dog's owner shout out, 'Oh he's fine'," said Joan, "as their unleashed dog rushes toward a stranger and their leashed dog.

As a canine trainer what I hear is, 'I'm giving you fair warning that I have no verbal control over my dog and no desire to leash him. He does whatever he wants even if it is an inconvenience to you, your dog and your overall walking enjoyment. My dog and I are having a grand time while he runs amok and I fully expect you to manage your dog accordingly'.

In order to understand another person's circumstance, you have to walk in their shoes. And walking in another person's shoes doesn't seem to be a

quality many people want to try on; heck, those shoes might hurt after all. But when you live in a community, practicing compassion and consideration are a must for us all to get along.

So let's take a moment and walk in another person's shoes.

Leash laws have many purposes; one of them is preventing unnecessary conflict and confrontation between dogs that can lead to an injury due to human error. So having a dog that is not under verbal control in a situation that requires it — yet is allowed off leash — can lead to conflict.

It may be true that Fritz is a very social dog, and even though he refuses to come when called, he is a friendly dog to whom-ever he meets. So I understand why Fritz's owner doesn't see a problem as he rushes up to other dogs. But what Fritz's owner is not considering is the possibility that the 'strange' dog is not

social, or even friendly.

The leashed dog may have behavioral issues that its owner is desperately trying to correct during training walks. So having Fritz run into his space may likely set back the training.

Fritz could also become a victim of a preventable dog bite if his owner had done the appropriate thing and either leashed Fritz when the leashed dog was approaching, or called him back and walked in a proper unleashed heel position.

Maybe the dog Fritz is running towards is a young dog being trained to walk nicely on leash, and since it is unreliable off leash, the owner is being responsible and has it leashed for training and safety reasons. Yes, there are some people that take dog training seriously and want a well trained, reliable, social dog and are working to achieve it. They don't think that leashing a dog on a walk will scar it emotionally and impede its blossoming personality.

Or the dog Fritz is running towards has been abused, attacked previously, is newly adopted, has an injury, is recovering from an illness or surgery and is required to be walked on leash for training/therapy. The dog needs to get out for a walk and it is selfish for Fritz's owner to not realize that the dog should

happily accept his friendly, intimidating, untrained dog's advances.

Taking control of our dogs and being responsible for their actions so they don't infringe on another's walking enjoyment with their dogs is part of the silent agreement we make with our community when we choose to bring a dog into our lives. When you adopt a dog, it affects the lives of everyone around, not just yours. Remember - your dog is a reflection of you!

Look beyond your needs and see how your choices affect another person. It is time to see through the eyes of others."

## TIPS

"Attend dog training classes," says Joan. "to learn how to communicate with your dog. Your dog also learns what you want and you learn to read their body language and understand what they are saying to you!" Every movement a dog makes has a meaning and other dogs know this. When it comes to the safety of your dog and preventable accidents, the cost of the classes far outweigh the consequences of not taking them. A well behaved dog is a welcomed member of your neighborhood and is



Courtesy Photo

"My dogs, Zumi, Raider and Piper, were all looking in the direction of the camera," confesses Joan, "until one silently screamed 'SQUIRREL!' and then in unison they all turned and looked the other way as the photo was taken. It is surprising that the photo is not blurry, catching all three dogs in mid head-swing!"

an asset to your life instead of a liability." [www.k9kinship.com](http://www.k9kinship.com)

Comments:  
"Dogs walking off leash is one of my pet peeves," said Deb. "If they run into the street, I would be the one responsible for hitting it, and I would never get over it! While walking, it could attack me - or if, as the owner says, "it's friendly", it may just want to slobber on me. However friendly it may be, I'm just not a big fan of dog drool."

"I walk my cats in a stroller," said Mary Ellen Angel Scribe, "and some people have allowed

their dog to press their nose on the protective screening. The cats cower and when the dogs bark in the cat's faces, the owners think it is funny. My cats and I consider this rude and cruel!"

Share your wonderful/funny pet moments.  
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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Israeli commando to speak

Major Ari Barab, retired journalist, will be speaking at the Cottage Grove Library on Saturday, April 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. Barab will share his time spent in the Israeli Palmach/Commando in Palestine, Israel 1948. Those interested may check with the Library for future talks scheduled.

### Caregivers support

All caregivers are welcome to attend a meeting Monday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall at 1200 E. Quincy Ave. The special speaker will be Gloria Campuzano, Dietician. Guests are asked to bring something to share for the potluck lunch. For more information, call Shirley at 541-232-0466.

### Genealogy presents Rosie the Riveters

The Cottage Grove Genealogical Society will have a program on Rosie the Riveters on Wednesday, April 8 in the Shepherd Room in the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave., at 11 a.m. The public is welcome. Potluck lunch follows. The regular Genealogical Society meeting is prior, at 10 a.m., but all are welcome to

attend.

### 912 Project

The next meeting of the Cottage Grove 912 Project will be Monday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant.

Attorney Jacob Daniels will talk about Oregonians for Public Integrity and their work to hold all legislators and other public officials accountable.

The meeting is open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

### Camacho earns degree

Cottage Grove's Elizabeth Camacho recently received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Spanish from the University of Oregon. Camacho was one of 703 students who completed work toward degrees during winter term 2015 at the University of Oregon.

### Dahlia talk

A presentation on growing dahlias is scheduled for the Cottage Grove Garden Club's Tuesday, April 7 presentation, which features Dan Duffy of the Lane County Dahlia Society.

This presentation is free and open to the public. The Garden Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at The First Presbyterian Church on the corners of Adams and 3rd. Its business meeting takes place at 6 p.m. with the presentation scheduled at 7 p.m.

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