



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

A Jamaican dog...sort of

"Our previous dog, Willis, looked at my husband, Ed, with such unadulterated love and adoration that it melted our hearts," said Louise. "When Willis passed, it blew the wind out of Ed's sails, and he sunk into depression. Four months later, Ed's brother passed. Ed fell further into his dark pit. I mentioned my concern about Ed to our neighbor, Debbie, who responded, 'Maybe I can help! My Labrador had puppies and one is very special. Come and see her.' So, my granddaughter, Nova, and I walked to Debbie's home 'to look' at this 'special' puppy. At the very least, it would be an entertaining visit.

How could it hurt? After all, our lives had dramatically changed after Willis' passing. We had no incentive to go for walks, our laughter at his antics was gone, the house was too quiet and there was no one excitedly waiting for a trip to the store. Our home and lives felt empty.

Debbie's five wet-nosed bouncing puppies greeted us at the door. Nova and the 'special' puppy instantly connected and played together the entire visit. After we left, the puppy followed us to the door, sat there, and stared at it for an hour and a half, crying. She knew that we had forgotten something when we left, and it was HER!

I never told Ed about our 'play date', but I asked Debbie if I could come for the puppy at 10 p.m. It was late, but that was part of my plan. If Ed said 'No', I was prepared to say, 'How can I possibly return it this late?'

It was unusual for me to leave the house at night, so Ed asked, 'Where are you going?'

'I have an errand to run,' I truthfully responded as I ran out the door.

Minutes later, I was back with a black wiggly-squiggly puppy in my arms. Ed took one look; he was not smiling, and he exclaimed — twice — 'What have you done now!'

I announced, 'I want our lives back. We have always had a dog. We need a dog for walks and laughter. Our lives have revolved around a dog's needs and we enjoy it. We

are lost without a dog.' And I handed him the puppy.

There was one problem. I had already booked a vacation for us and our grandchildren, a cabin with a no-pet rule. Ed, who was not happy with the new family member, volunteered, 'I will stay and take care of the puppy.'

On my return, I found Jamaica sleeping in our bed — in my spot! Ed and Jamaica had super-glued in my absence.

Jamaica's name is unusual, but it has a deep personal meaning. Because she represents all that is happy and joyful in our lives, and we have loved our seven vacations in Jamaica, we named her after our favorite happy place.

We receive endless joy watching our grandchildren laugh, play and chase the dog — and the dog chase the kids. Jamaica is strong. She pulls a small rug with six-year-old Nova on it around the house. Jamaica is such a bonus to our lives.

One night, Debbie was driving home and she saw a man in a white van in front of our home, calling Jamaica. She asked, 'Why are you calling the dog?' He responded, 'I lost my dog, I am calling him over.'

She gave him the 'evil eye' and announced that she knew that it was not his dog. She would not leave until he left.

This is how fast pet-nappings happen! Ed was in a hurry to use the bathroom, so instead of letting Jamaica out into the backyard, he had propped open the front door so they could both use their bathrooms at the same time. It scared us! We learned a valuable lesson! Ed grumbles about Jamaica, but she means more to him than he pretends she does.

I was slated for surgery 1,000 miles from our small town, the stay was to be ten days, so we brought Jamaica with us. But after 40 days in a hotel she had become a savvy big city dog.

One day, as they walked to the car to visit me, Ed turned to let her in, but she had disappeared. In a frenzy he ran up and down the parking lot. No dog! Then he saw a lady emerge from the hotel's restaurant, her pant's belt had become a makeshift collar/



Courtesy Photo

Grandpa Ed and Nova with 1-1/2 year old Jamaica, the "black wiggly-squiggly puppy" that saved the day.

leash for Jamaica - and she had a dog cookie in her hand. Jamaica is so smart; she figured out that hotel doors open automatically, and she smelled restaurant food, so she headed straight through them to their kitchen!"

TIPS

"For fun," said Louise, "I cut holes in a large-black garbage bag for Nova's head and arms and slip it on her like a t-shirt. Nova sits down, holds a leash, Jamaica grabs the other end in her mouth and drags a giggling Nova over the carpets from room to room. We laugh ourselves silly watching them slip-sliding away."

Doggy Disposal? No problem! Card-board and stuffed animals are not safe in our home! Anytime I find old toys that I want to get rid of, I leave them out and Jamaica 'does them in' for me."

What's your pet's funniest moment?
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Seems like yesterday they were just toddlers, but now they are grads.

Zac Worley

Cottage Grove High School

Born: October 29, 1996

Parents: Rhonda & Rick Worley

Grandparents: Jiom & Ada Noble, Kathy McGrail

Jenna Borrelli

Cottage Grove High School

Born: January 18, 1997

Parents: Brent & Jolene Borrelli

Reid H. Center

Cottage Grove High School

Born: July 15, 1997

Parents: Scott & Alison Center

Grandparents: Fred Dunlap, Bob & Flo Center

Tori Fullerton

Cottage Grove High School

Born: September 15, 1996

Grandparents: Deb & Mike Fullerton

Jade Harris

Kennedy CGHS

Born: June 1997

Parents: RaJeanna Harris

Grandparents: Tammy Hilterbrant

Jarett Raade

Cottage Grove High School

Born: January 7, 1997

Parents: Joe & Lynn Raade

Grandparents: Ross & Chris Sieja, Phil & Linda Raade-Vaught

Conner Yearous

Lincoln Middle School

Born: June 12, 2001

Parents: Aimee Thompson, Jason Yearous

Grandparents: Ken & Kerri Stevenson, Paul & Janet Yearous

Ryley Yearous

Cottage Grove High School

Born: July 5, 1997

Parents: Aimee Thompson, Jason Yearous

Grandparents: Ken & Kerri Stevenson, Paul & Janet Yearous

Mackenzie Roberts

Cottage Grove High School

Born: November 26, 1997

Parents: Mindy Roberts, Jeff Roberts

Grandparents: Bill & Betty Black, Mary Roberts, Terry & Marge Roberts