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Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Josie and the PussyCats

"As cat people," said Shauna, "our family worried that a canine wouldn't get along with, or would terrorize our precious felines."

Then a neighbor, a young mother of four, developed a serious illness. We helped them with meals, gardening and walked their beautiful, well-trained Golden Retriever Roxy — the ideal dog to 'borrow'.

A few years later, after our neighbor passed, her family was dealt another blow. When they moved, they couldn't take Roxy, so they gifted her to us.

When we brought Roxy home, she followed instructions to ignore our cats, and the cats ignored her. The dog/cat détente worked wonderfully. Soon, Roxy's great nature, wonderful company, warm heart and famous Retriever smile magically transformed us into dog people. We realized that our family would forever more be incomplete without a dog.

When Roxy was a senior, we wanted her to live on by training and mentoring our first puppy. We adopted a Golden Retriever puppy, and Roxy was amazing with her. She seemed to turn into a puppy herself!

Devastatingly, the 13-month-old puppy died of unknown causes. Our family, including Roxy, was heartbroken.

As pet parents, we knew that another dog would heal our hearts. We wanted one fast, because time was of the essence for our aging Roxy. We wanted another light-colored Retriever, as homage to our puppy.

We located an English Cream Golden Retriever 3,000 miles away. Tate and I flew out to see the puppy, and our hearts melted at her sweet face and the way she placed her little head into our hands as we petted her.

We named the playful polar-bear-cub look-alike, Josie, to tie her in to our two cats, Pudding and Mini-Moo. Why Josie? Well after the Archie comic books' female band 'Josie and the PussyCats'! Josie was also trained to stay away from the cats and certainly not to chase them. It would not be fair to have our cats be uncomfortable in their own home.

Roxy was thrilled with her new protégé. She once again did a fabulous job teaching and modeling for Josie how to become a great family pet. For the next two years, Roxy shared her many wonderful traits with our new Retriever before she passed.

Now Josie is a mentoring dog. (Roxy would be so proud!) Many of our friends' puppies have spent hours under her gentle and playful tutelage.

We love Josie's expressive and enthusiastic eyes when she's thinking, 'I'm about



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Shauna, Tate and their seven-year old Golden Retriever, Josie, have suddenly become one big happy family...with the cat!

to get a treat', or her gentle 'I love you' face, and how she individually raises one eyebrow, then the other, like she's trying to discern what we're saying. She's also great company, as she is always by our side."

"When I was away at university," said Tate, "I experienced 'pet withdrawal'. I missed cat-study-cuddle-breaks and walks with Josie. My family put Josie on Skype for a 'visit' but it didn't make sense to her. When she heard my voice, she would search the house and be confused because I wasn't there."

When I returned home, it was joyful because having Josie is like having a little sister/best friend to do fun things with and take care of. I joke that I'm the 'middle child' and my dog is our spoiled youngest child. I am never lonely when she's around, and she keeps me active doing fun things like finding new hiking trails and lakes.

When I have my own home, I will adopt both cats and dogs because they each have different personalities and attributes - making wonderful companions. I graduated with a degree in Psychology with a focus in Marketing, and now have a full time job and a volunteer job. The plan is to become financially stable before I adopt any pets."

"Meanwhile the copasetic mutual "ignoring" between dog and cats in our home successfully continued," said Shauna. "That is, until last October when our eldest cat Mini-Moo passed away."

To everyone's surprise, most of all Josie's, our remaining 11-year-old feline, Pudding, who was aloof to pretty much everyone and everything, except Tate, changed. In grief and loneliness, she approached Josie for

comfort. Pudding now curls up with Josie and they sleep together.

True to her gentle nature, Josie ensures that she doesn't disturb Pudding while the cat naps, nestled into her deep-cream fur. Our family enjoys watching our two beautiful, fluffy pets now adore, rather than ignore, each other!"

TIPS

"The hierarchy of the 'family pack' is important for dogs in order for them to behave nicely around cats and their humans," said Shauna. "Dogs need to believe that they are the lowest on the totem pole. (In a way that they know they are still loved and taken care of, of course.) At the top is the "Alpha" (trainer/person who is with the dog most), then other family members, then the cats, and then the dog at the bottom."

Dogs don't mind being at the bottom of the heap, but rather appreciate knowing where they stand. Because of this, Josie manages herself with a quiet confidence with us around other dogs. My husband jokes that he's actually the one at the bottom of the totem pole because of all the attention our pets receive!"

Tell us your fun FUR-tastic pet tale!
angelscribe@msn.com

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BEWARE

Caution walking pets on a 'warm' day!

When the air temperature is a mere 77° the asphalt/road pavement/sidewalk measures 125°.

Remember if you can't walk barefoot on the pavement, neither should your pet. Test the asphalt with the back of your hand before a walk.

Air Temp	'Owie' Asphalt Temperatures
77°	125°
86°	135°
87°	143°

The American Medical Association Journal states that "At 125° F, skin destruction can happen in 60 seconds" and that is skin on your pets' paws!

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Worship Directory

<p>6th & Gibbs Church of Christ 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822 Pastor: Aaron Earlywine Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey Services: 9am and 10:30am Christian Education Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade www.6thandgibbs.com</p>	<p>Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship: 8:30am, 11am Sunday School: 9:45am Youth Group Mondays 6:30pm AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479 Pastor: Rev. Bruce Cameron Worship: 10:00am Sunday School: 10:00am www.cgpresbynews.com</p>	<p>Old Time Gospel Fellowship 103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999 Pastor: Herb Carson Sunday Service: 10:00am Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm We sing the old time hymns.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church 334 Washington • 541-942-3033 Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen Worship: 10:30am Adult & Sunday School: 9:30am Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free) Mon. 5-6:30pm cottagegroveumc.org</p>
<p>Calvary Baptist Church 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p>	<p>Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet www.cg4.tv Sumer Schedule Sunday, Service - 10am Full Children's Ministry available</p>	<p>Grove Community Church 77820 Mosby Creek Rd. Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-942-0123 Pastor: Bryan Parsons Worship: 10:30 a.m. Nursery: Infant - Pre-K Kid's Church: K to 5th grade</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches 1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712 Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J. Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm Sun. 10:30am St. Philip Benizi, Creswell: 552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686 Sunday: 8:30am</p>	<p>"VICTORY" Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: 11:00am "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p>
<p>Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove 1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza) 541-942-6842 Pastor: Jeff Smith Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am Wednesday Service 6:45 pm Child Care 10:45am Service Only Youth Group Bible Study: Wed. 6:45 pm & Sat. 6 pm www.cgcalvary.org</p>	<p>Covered Bridge Nazarene Church 152 S. M St. 541-942-4422 Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker Sunday School: 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p>	<p>Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshipupc.com "FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"</p>	<p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Church with the flags." Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome</p>	<p>Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel at 541-942-3325.</p>
<p>Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove 700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center) Rev. Bobby Lee Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m. Info: 541-767-0182 (Mrs. "T")</p>	<p>Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p>	<p>Living Faith Assembly 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Pastor Rulon Combs Sunday School All Ages 9am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am "The Bridge" Sat Evening Service 6:00pm Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm Children's Breakout Class: Wed. 6:30pm</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: Kevin Miller Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm</p>	
<p>Church of Christ 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 301 S 6th St 541-942-8242 Pastor: Steve Johnson Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11:00am Come Worship with us</p>	<p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave • 541-767-0447 Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravvecoc.com</p>	<p>Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday Worship 9:30am Adult Education 10:45am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups trinitylutherancottagegrove.com</p>	