



# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

## Myrna's Maltese Princesses

Beware of the "pup-a-razzi". Similar to the paparazzi, I travel with a camera in search of a good pet article. Everyone has a story, but we often do not realize that others are living through the pain of grief. Following is a touching example of what a chance meeting exposed about the lives of Myrna and her Maltese Princesses.

"My husband was hired to set up a computer system 700 miles north of our home," said Myrna, "for a large llama ranch. When we walked into the llama barn, I was stopped dead in my tracks by the sight of a hairless, one-year-old, one-pound Maltese puppy.

I asked about the skinny pup, and they said '...it was not trainable, so she ended up in the barn.'

Were they crazy? It was 30 degrees below zero outside! And here she was hairless and malnourished, existing on llamas' afterbirths! She smelled as if she was sleeping curled up to the llamas for warmth.

"I paid \$1200 for that dog!" said the rancher. "Do you want to buy her?"

I was appalled! He treated her like garbage and then wanted money for her!

I said, "No" while tucking the shivering-thin creature into my jacket for the rest of that day. I figured one day of warmth and love was better than none. The next day, I drove home — alone.

We had two Persian cats, bigger than the petite pup, and we did not think that they would get along with a canine. But the frigid weather and the sweet dog haunted my spirit. So, the next morning, I retraced the 700 miles back, paid the extortion fee, and returned home with the shivering, weak dog on my lap.

Our vet took one look at her and said, "I can't promise she'll last a week. Don't let her walk because she is too weak." So I fashioned a T-shirt around my waist and 'wore' that dog for 1-1/2 months. We bonded like glue, and the only name that suited her was our little "Princess".

Princess apparently trained through telepathy. She just instinctively always knew what to do! When I flew to Europe, she went with me



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

**The pup-a-razzi captured these two look-alike family members, Myrna and her four-pound furry diva, Princess. They have a tale of heartache, love and devotion...on both sides.**

and was the perfect pet. For 16 years, Princess was more angel than dog. When she passed, I cannot begin to describe how deep the pain was.

My girlfriend understood my grief, so one day she phoned and said, 'This is an emergency! Call this number! They have Maltese puppies!'

My husband and I went to 'just look'. He said, 'You don't have to take the first dog you see.' But when this nine-ounce puppy wiggled over to me, I knew that if I had to rob a bank to pay for her I would! Once I saw her, that was it, I would have sold my soul for that little doll-baby!

The pup was so lively. She immediately began running our lives! She can't speak, but she knows exactly what and when she wants something. Yes, this one too, is a Princess! Our first one was graceful, grateful and appreciative. This one? She is demanding like a real princess and we would not have it any other way.

She gives us joy during difficult times. My husband has dialysis, three days a week, and

when he arrives home he is tired. Princess always sleeps on his lap after his return. She literally went from abject poverty into the lap of luxury. When we go to bed, I lift up our covers and she crawls in. When she gets hot, she crawls out and sleeps on our pillows. But we confess, we are the spoiled ones!"

Apparently, the dog door swings both ways! During this interview, Princess barked from their bedroom and Myrna had to leave to hand Princess her pink-squeaky-piggy toy.

## TIPS

"To clean stained fur around a pet's eyes," suggests Myrna, "use a drop of contact lens solution on a Q-tip."

We only use harnesses on our dogs, never a collar! Our vet said that collars hurt a pet's esophagus and they get "throat cancer" from pulling on a leash. Since every dog pulls on their leash, both large and small dogs should have harnesses, which are now made in all sizes. An added benefit for small dogs wearing a harness is that you can quickly lift them up if a dangerous situation presents itself.

I believe in cooking for pets. They need real food, not something from a bag that is covered in colorful advertising that you would not put in your own mouth or that would make you hiss-terical if your child ate it.

Princess loves her ABC veggies: asparagus, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery and apples. If I am hungry, and there is nothing to eat in the house, I know I can eat her food (I don't) and nothing bad will happen to me — or her.

Ask your vet, a pet nutritionalist, or check the Internet for nutritional pet food information.

No dog should be left home alone all day. Ask a neighbor to walk them or take them to a doggy 'Bark Park'. Hopefully you can get home at lunch to take them outside for a walk."

Tell us about your talkative pet!  
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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Hearing Assoc. presentation

On Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015, the Hearing Loss Association of Lane County will host a presentation by Laura Hurn, an audiologist at Oregon Medical Group. Hurn will speak about how to get the most out of audiologic testing and therefore get the best hearing device and programming. A question-and-answer period will follow her presentation, which will be at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street in Eugene from 7-8 p.m.

### McRae at the Fiddle

Kelly McRae kicks off a fall tour in support of her new album at the Axe & Fiddle Pub on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 8:30 p.m.

McRae grew up in Mississippi but called Brooklyn home before teaming up with guitarist Matt Castelein in 2011. Drawing comparisons to Lucinda Williams and Gillian Welch, the duo's music is wide-ranging, comprising haunting ballads, tender love songs, and energetic guitar driven songs full of hope.

### Genealogy help

Those who are having trouble navigating the Family Search/Family Tree website can bring their laptop and pedigree chart to the Cottage Grove Genealogy Society on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 11 a.m. for one-on-one, hands-on instruction. The Genealogy Society is located at the Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. The public is welcome and there is no charge.

### LWV to meet

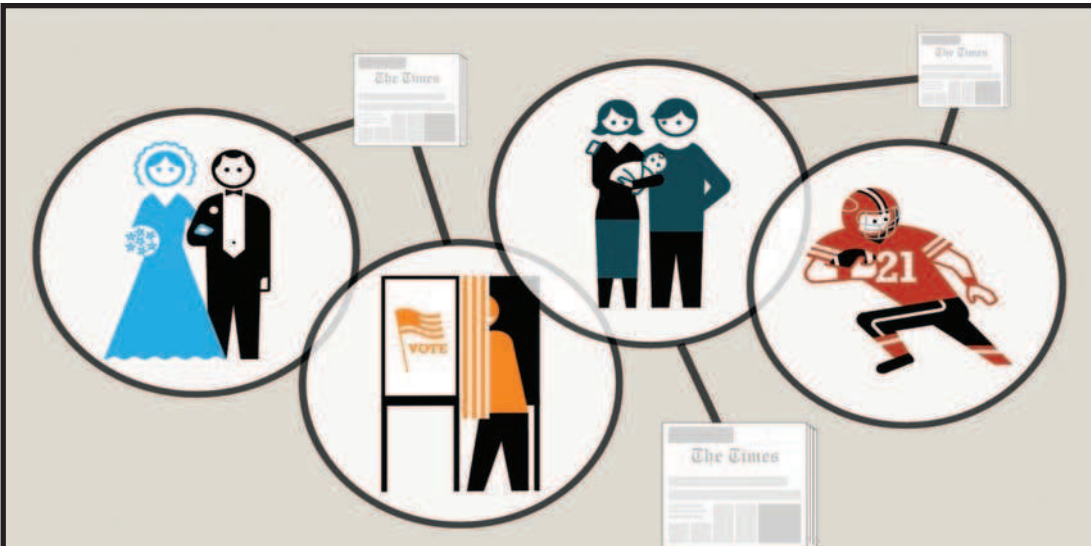
Those who would like to be an active and informed participant in government and increase their understanding of major policy issues are welcome to attend the local League of Women Voters chapter on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 110 at the Cottage Grove campus of Lane Community College, located at 1275 S. River Rd. The topic will be "Constitutional Conventions".

### Printmaking for young people

An afternoon workshop taught by Michele Rose of the Crafty Mercantile aims to introduce students to the graphic art of linocut, one of the simplest of all printmaking methods. The workshop costs \$10 and takes place Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 3:30-5 p.m.

### Controlled burn planned

The BLM is planning controlled burns on approximately 300 acres within the North Bank Habitat Management Area, approximately three miles southeast of Sutherlin, Oregon, off North Bank Road, beginning Oct. 6 and ending by Saturday, Oct. 10. The primary objectives for the controlled burn are to increase the quantity and quality of forage available and restore oak/madrone woodlands.



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