



# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

## Rescuing a fur family

My husband, Charlie, and I volunteered at an animal kill-shelter," said Jo, "for five years. Back then, we were ahead of today's trend by taking photographs of adoptable animals and posting them on Petfinder and Craigslist! It took hours, but we saved hundreds of lives. I also forwarded the pure bred animals' photos to their respective rescue groups, who would then foster the animals.

After I took the dogs', cats' and rabbits' photos, I wrote funny things about them, even knowing that they were in dire straits, with no hope of rescue. Once I took a photo of three caged kittens standing in a row and titled it 'Line dancing in the Cat House'.

The purpose was to make potential pet parents smile while reflecting on the animals' plight. People often arrived at the shelter specifically because of an animal's photo and description. These people had emotionally adopted the animal, in their own home, online, before even arriving at the shelter.

When we realized what was happening to some wonderful pets, well, we ended up adopting five dogs and two cats. We couldn't idly stand by watching so many animals needlessly being 'put to sleep' — week after week. Their euthanization felt like murder, especially when we 'knew' the animals and how special they were. Their demise was a toxic combination of lack of neutering and spaying, producing many unwanted but in-



Courtesy Photo

**When Charlie and Jo lined up their camera-shy dogs, Abby and Amber, for their "five minutes of fame" photo, the reluctant dogs 'flashed' their eyes at the photographer! Charlie and Jo adopt their pure bred pets from shelters and their grateful animals pay them back with humor and love — in spades.**

credibly loving pets...and a lack of adoptable homes, especially in this economy.

Regarding the creepy cretins who run puppy/kitten mills: they throw away animals if they have to shell out for veterinarian charges. This adds to our pet overpopulation burden. Charlie jokes, 'You have to spay the people!'

It was startling witnessing all breeds of beautiful purebreds enter our pet shelter. We rescued Abby, a big black Bernese Mountain/Border Collie mix; Amber, a beautiful German Shorthair Pointer; Cooper, a Llewellyn English Setter and our comic cat, Cosmo. At the time we had no idea that Cosmo was also a toss away purebred.

When googling 'long-haired gray cat' we discovered his pedigree was a rare Nebelung, from Germany, similar to Russian Blue cats.

The first time I saw Cosmo in the cat room his personality stood out, but he was sickly. The last time I saw him he was coughing, looked awful and was on the loading dock ready to go in the oven! I took him home to foster, but he stole our hearts, so he has a permanent home here.

We named him after the actor who played Cher's father in 'Moonstruck'. Charlie is obsessed with Egypt, and with Cosmo's 'blue' bloodline, so he nicknamed him Pharaoh Cosmos after Pharaoh Thutmose.

Cosmo hams it up by running along our hallway's baseboard and then twanging the doorstep. His other 'sport' is swatting the dogs when they pass by him when he's up on a chair.

A brief history on our loving rescues shows the fate of many nameless pet orphans. Our dog, Abby, was thrown off the back of a truck. A witness took a photo of the license plate before taking Abby to a shelter.

Amber was found emaciated, starving in the woods. The shelter almost put her down. It took a month for her to regain her health.

Cooper was suffering from heart worms. Through private donations his treatment was paid, so we took him home as a foster. The minute our Golden Retriever spotted Cooper they were the best of buddies, they often fell asleep with their paws touching. We knew we could never break their bond.

Willie, another long-haired gray cat, had an abscessed eye and was discovered crying, begging for help, walking down his rescuer's driveway.

Today, our shelter has a plethora of purebreds: two great Pyrenees, two Cocker Spaniels, two Boxers, two German Shepherds, a Yorkie, Pomeranian, Papillon, Shitzu etc., all looking to be loved and give love. Sadly some people don't understand that God created animals to teach us love!

Mary Ellen, I'm glad you have this forum to teach the plight of animals, you're definitely their friend. We readers can't thank you enough for all your work helping animals and may I say people too!"

## TIPS

"We joined other shelter volunteers," said Jo, "and stood outside pet and food stores for food and money donations for our shelter. In the end, we had three vans full of food for the animals plus some donations. Proving that one person can make a difference in a pet's life!"

If you have the skills, check whether your humane society needs photography and internet help listing rescues online, if they need foster homes, or old blankets and towels etc. Of course they always can use money to help with medical bills for strays like Willy.

ICE In Case of Emergency - carry a PET HOME ALONE alert card in your wallet notifying authorities that your pets need care. Include the names and phone numbers of the people to notify in case of illness or injury. Design your own card and if paws-ible include your pets photos and names.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Science Pub talks truffles

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council welcomes biologist Scot Loring Biologist, to its Science Pub presentation. His talk, entitled "Truffles of the Southern Willamette Valley," will delve into the world of truffles across the planet. It is scheduled to take place from 5-7 p.m. at the Axe & Fiddle Pub.

In a recent news release, the Watershed Council called truffles an "extremely under-explored" subject worldwide.

"We frequently walk right over them and almost never see these subterranean treasures. Even in Oregon, which is global epicenter of past and present truffle experts, new species are commonly encountered," the release said, adding that a new genus (a group of species) that was recently discovered locally near Dorena Lake and endemic to the Coast Fork Willamette River watershed is found nowhere else on Earth.

The Watershed Council hosts a free monthly public meeting series called the Coast Fork Science Pub on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main Street in Cottage Grove. The event begins with informal socializing, trivia, prizes and updates about the watershed and watershed council during the first hour. The formal science pub presentation begins at 6 p.m.

## 912 Project

Brian Whiteside of VDOS Global will discuss UVAs (drones) at the next meeting of the Cottage Grove 912 Project on Monday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, 401 E. Main Street, and is open to the public.

## SLSD Budget Committee

The South Lane School District Board of Directors is seeking a community member to serve on the District's Budget Committee to represent positions five and six. Both positions serve three-year terms.

To be eligible for appointment, a candidate must not be an officer, employee or agent of the District and must be a qualified voter within the District.

Interested citizens are asked to obtain an application from the District service center at 455 Adams Ave. and return it to Superintendent Krista Parent or Board Secretary Mary Dubbs at PO Box 218, Cottage Grove, OR 97424. The deadline for applications is Jan. 31.

## 'Nerd' auditions

Auditions for a comedy entitled "The Nerd," to be directed by Shelly Davey Dax at the Opal Center in downtown Cottage Grove, will take place Monday

and Tuesday, Feb. 8-9 at 6:30 p.m. Needed are three men ages 25-60, two women ages 25-50 and one boy age eight. Those seeking more information may email: shellydax@gmail.com.

## Cowboy/Gospel music

Howard Steele, a longtime local resident who is well-known for his cowboy and gospel music, will be performing for free at the Old Time Gospel Fellowship, 103 S. 5th St., on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 5 p.m. Steele will have CDs available for sale.

## Coffee and conversation

Coffee and Conversation with Rev. Bobby will be held Monday, Jan. 18 at the Backstage Bakery from 10-11:30 a.m. The bakery is located at the corner of 7th and Main Street. The topic will be "We See All People, Beings and Life As Expressions of God." There is no charge, and everyone is welcome. Those seeking more information can call Rev. Bobby Lee at (907) 230-5070 or check the Center's Facebook page at "CSLCottageGrove".

## Librarians sought

The Cottage Grove Historical Society is seeking members to be future volunteer librarians. Those who can commit to one week of training and at least two days a month could be useful to the Society as a research librarian. Current coverage needs will begin in spring and are needed for Friday and Saturday shifts from 1-4 p.m. No library experience is required and friends are encouraged to sign up together. Training will take place in March and April for spring library re-opening. Those interested can email cghistoricalsoc@gmail.com and their name will be put on a list.

## LCC holiday closure, presentation

Lane Community College will be closed to the public for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, Jan. 18. No classes will be held and no services will be available, unless otherwise announced by a department or program.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, Lane student groups and president's office are cosponsoring the 2016 Eugene Community Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., at 7 p.m. at the University of Oregon, Columbia Hall, Room 150, 1585 E 13th Ave. The event will feature keynote speaker April Ryan, noted journalist and veteran member of the White House press corps. Her presentation is free and open to the public. For event information contact Greg Evans at evansg@lanec.edu or (541) 463-5340.

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