



## Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

### Molly and her 'Buddy'

"When I was six-years-old my parents came to get me at my friend's house," said Kaytlyn, "and Mom had the cutest puppy, Molly, on her lap! Molly is positively the best dog: cuddly, fluffy and small enough for a lap with the super-smarts of a Lab."

In the mornings, Molly jumps on my bed and kisses me awake. I love it! She also has a heart of gold and knows when I am sad because she licks my tears away and cuddles with me."

Kaytlyn's mother, Mrs. Stevens, has been a grade school teacher for 25 years, and she is now onto "repeat customers". Her first generation of students is requesting their own children be in her class.

"It is no wonder I love teaching," said Mrs. S. "Teaching is my life and passion, not a job."

Just before Christmas 13 years ago, (in the olden days) I saw an ad in the newspaper for puppies. Our children, Kaytlyn and Christopher, were old enough for a pet, so we chose Molly, the runt of the six, as an early Christmas gift."

"Molly is a fuzzy mix of Shitzu and Black Lab," adds Kaytlyn, "so we playfully call her a 'Shlab'! Sometimes we call her, 'The Sh-moo' or Molly Moo-p because she is the color of a cow."

"In second grade we use animals and pets as writing subjects," said Mrs. S. "So I go on and on about my dogs because my students love it. The children feel like an extension of my family, and we have our love of pets in common. One day, my husband phoned me at school from the vet's office and told me that Molly was deathly ill. I tried so hard not to cry. But finally, I broke down and the children wanted to know 'Why?'. I told them and one student lovingly drew a picture of an angel for Molly. It was beautiful. I still have it."

"We raised our children along with Molly and Buddy," said Mrs. S. "Having pets teaches



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

**Grade two teacher Mrs. Stevens and her daughter, Kaytlyn, a Cottage Grove Sentinel employee, both love dogs. They were "caught" out walking their two dogs, Molly and her buddy, Buddy.**

children how to be gentle, compassionate, responsible and to respect others. On the days our children were cranky and would snipe at us, in the next minute, their inner gentle spirits would turn and love on a dog."

In grade two, one of Mrs. Stevens' students asked her if she wanted one of his dog's puppies:

"Our family went over 'just to look' and sure enough we left with an irresistibly cute puppy, Buddy."

Well, the 'cute' wore off right away. That little Rat Terrier-Pomeranian curmudgeon did not like little children, plus he was very nervous and peed on everything! It is no joke — he was born on April Fools Day! Because Buddy was so out of

control, we gave him to another family. But, a week later we 'had' to take him back, after he tried to bite one of their children. Buddy was thrilled to see us and changed his attitude, growing into a wonderful dog."

"Buddy's nicknames are 'Buddy Boop' like Betty Boop and Spud Bud," said Kaytlyn. "Buddy's crazy habit is that he loves laying on the hot summer concrete. I ask him, 'Why are you out there in the blazing sun in a fur coat?' Buddy looks at me as if to say, 'Hey, don't bother me. I am tanning.' One of his best attributes is that he is a foot cuddler. It is a great winter treat to have him heating up our toes! My favorite thing about dogs is looking into their understanding, wise, deep-brown eyes."

"Our dogs have a weird food 'thing'," said Kaytlyn. "They love each other and are fed together, but Molly always eats Buddy's food first, then hers. Poor Buddy then comes to us crying because he's hungry. We don't know what kind of telepathic mind control Molly has over Buddy, because he always gives into her."

Maybe his understanding is based on his love for her? Since Molly was diagnosed with 25 percent kidney function he may sense that time is precious. Molly is on an expensive food, but mom explains, 'She is my "baby" and deserves it to help prolong her life.' Dogs see into your heart and in one's life span only a few people or pets are ever allowed there. There is nothing like loving a pet, or a pet loving you! They enrich your life and since my brother moved out, Molly and her 'best bud', Buddy, are my 'other' siblings."

It is hilarious when it snows because Molly's lab breed has her irresistibly dancing and prancing in it, but her short Shitzu side has her sinking down into the snow with her little legs - making her disappear so you only see the tips of her tail and nose!"

### TIPS

"Fireworks terrorize Molly, so on July 4 she hides under my bed," explained Kaytlyn. "I give her the homeopathic remedy from the feed store called TFLN which stands for Thunder, Fireworks, Lightning and Noise. It is amazing how it naturally calms her fear."

A great big "HELLO" to all of Mrs. S's students in the 'Pig Pen' who consistently READ, READ, READ and are taking good care of their pets by learning and incorporating new ideas from 'Pet Tips 'n' Tales!'"

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## ODFW rolls out new fishing regulations booklet for 2016

Anglers this year may have noticed that Oregon's fishing regulations for 2016 are in a new magazine format publication, which the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says is not only more colorful but simpler and easier to read.

Over the past year ODFW worked on streamlining and simplifying the angling regulations. The agency said it has also expanded opportunities for trout and warmwater fishing and provided more consistent sea-

sons and bag limits.

"Anglers should notice plainer language and clearer descriptions of regulations," said a recent press release. "Content was also rearranged so that license information and fish ID photos are in the back of the regulations. Updated full-color zone maps can be found at the end of each section."

Here are a few changes that anglers will see in the 2016 fishing regulations:

Expanded year round opportunities across the state for trout. In most areas where there were April openers, these rivers were expanded to be open year-round.

Reduction in the number of special regulations or exceptions. One thing to be aware of is that some of the waters that you fish may no longer be listed under the exceptions. This means that they are now covered under the zone regulations.

Changes in fees. In 2016 there are fee increases on many angling licenses. This is the first time the fees have increased in six years. A new youth license

was created. For \$10 dollars youths ages 12-17 will get a hunting, fishing, shellfish license and Columbia River Basin endorsement.

Fish and Wildlife contracted with J.F. Griffin Media to publish this year's regulations. J.F. Griffin currently contracts with over 20 other states to help create a consistent look and feel for fishing and hunting regulations. They also provide an online version of the regulations that can be accessed from mobile devices, tablets and desktop computers. This version includes the latest corrections and clarification to a few regulations that were causing confusion.

## Oregon rolls the dice on exotic species

Over the past nine years, 88 new exotic terrestrial invertebrates have come to Oregon

Playing the craps table in Las Vegas or buying a lottery ticket for a chance at more than a billion dollars doesn't seem as risky as gambling that the high number of new, exotic insects, slugs, and other terrestrial invertebrates discovered in Oregon the past nine years are harmless.

"It's a crap shoot and we are gambling every year," says Jim LaBonte, an entomologist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. "The vast majority of species we have found are believed to be relatively harmless. In some cases, a few species have actually proved to be beneficial. But a certain percentage are seriously bad and can do damage. It comes out to be one out of every seven. Every year that we roll the dice, there is a strong likelihood we will come up with a significant or major pest."

LaBonte has been tracking all known new exotic species of terrestrial invertebrates detected and established in Oregon since 2007. There have been 88 of them, some new to North America. Out of roughly 25,000 insects, mites, slugs, and other related spineless species currently in the state, he estimates that about 1,000 are exotic. The number may also just be a tip of the iceberg.

"There has been a huge influx of species and limited resources to detect and deal with them," says LaBonte. "This is a vast tsunami that is probably only going to get bigger."

Exotic species are not necessarily invasive species. Exotics originated somewhere other than Oregon. Invasives cause damage of varying degrees. Of the 88 that have made Oregon their home the past eight years, 13 are known invasive species.

LaBonte has two good examples of bad actors.

"The spotted wing drosophila has had a huge impact on Oregon's fruit industry, and another recent newcomer— the azalea lace bug— is causing a lot of damage to azaleas and rhododendrons."

Even though ODA has a contingent of experienced experts who can identify these species when they are discovered, it isn't easy to keep tabs on so many invertebrates. Some sneak in undetected. For many species, there are no traps or lures. Sometimes the only way to find them is to literally turn over a rock. That's why several of the exotics may be legacy species that have been present in Oregon for decades or longer with nobody recognizing them until the past few years.

Spread over the nine years, the average number of new species established in Oregon comes out to nearly 10 per year. Last year was a banner year, in a negative way, as 20 new exotic terrestrial invertebrate species were found in the state for the

first time. The 20 new species are nearly twice as many as the previous two years combined. The reason for the increase is a combination of factors, not the least of which is that ODA is out there looking for insect pests in general. Surveys for specific, known pests included traps that were able to capture some previously undetected species.

The list of known major pests included in the detections since 2007 contain some names well-known to agricultural industries and others—barred fruit-tree tortrix, cabbage whitefly, ash whitefly, rose stem girdler, hemp russet mite, and garden slug. Some were found because of ODA's survey work, others were samples submitted to the agency's Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program experts.

Where do the new exotic species come from? The answer may be surprising. Despite Oregon's strong trade ties with Asia, nearly half of the 88 species detected since 2007 originated in Europe. Asia is responsible for 19 percent; another 19 percent came from other regions of the United States— dispelling the notion that exotic or invasive species all come from other countries.

The onslaught of new species may seem overwhelming. But for the "glass half full" crowd, at least it's not as bad as it could be.

"We aren't like California or Florida— both of whom have huge ports that can bring a major influx of exotic species through global trade," says LaBonte. "On the other hand, Oregon is a popular place for people to move to and they sometimes unknowingly bring in some species. Gypsy moth and Japanese beetle are exotic pests established in other parts of the US that have been brought to Oregon by people who've moved here."

LaBonte has a few targeted messages for Oregonians who would rather be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

"When you travel abroad or purchase items from other countries, be cautious. It's easy to unwittingly bring in infested material. Suitcases are one of the primary modes of introduction to Oregon as many of these species are excellent hitchhikers. Also, be aware of damage in your vicinity. If you see something suspicious like trees dying that you wouldn't expect or insects that seem unfamiliar, contact ODA."

LaBonte will present the latest information on Oregon's exotic terrestrial invertebrates at an international conference of entomologists meeting in Orlando, Florida later this year, hoping others recognize that Oregon is actively looking for new species, especially those that can cause harm. Interest in the topic at the conference is a reminder that every state and country has similar issues with exotic species crossing borders on a regular basis.

Those interested in an audio version of this story can visit <http://wp.me/p52oQB-9R> and scroll down.

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