



## Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

### Rory is a guide dog, not a rabbit!

When Rosamund lost her eyesight at the age of two, her doctors said that she would probably die within three years. But today, at 70 years of age, she has outlived all those doctors!

Her parents wanted to make her independent, so they expected her to do everything any child would.

"When I was five, mother taught me how to wash dishes," said Rosamund. "I could tell when they were clean by my fingers. I vacuumed by moving furniture to the side of the room so the vacuum wouldn't miss any dirt.

I did not get away with anything! If I lost something, I had to 'look' for it. After I grew up and became a parent myself, when my children had to clean their room, they would ask their sighted father to inspect it because he never checked under the bed. But I was a thorough inspector and always found their hidden messes!"

Rosamund attended a school for the blind and participated in school sports, and became a physical therapist. View her at the school at the age of five: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBMAx1GvZ8g>

"One day it snowed six inches," recalls Rosamund, "and I was scared when I could not discern the difference between the sidewalk, grass and road with my white cane. So, I phoned Guide Dogs for the Blind and told them I needed a dog."

People who donate a certain amount to the organization can name a guide puppy, so Rory's donor's youngster named my pup after her rabbit!

"A cane is not as safe, fast or as much fun as a dog," said Rosamund. "We walk 3-4 miles a day, which keeps us fit. Rory also walks me to exercise class-

es. Rory gives me freedom and I feel secure with her because she indicates and avoids uneven sidewalks and construction areas."

Outside Rory negotiates Rosamund around paw-destrians, lamp posts, garbage cans, mailboxes and benches. If a car stops for them paw-tially in a crosswalk, Rory guides Rosamund around it. Sighted people do not realize all the walking hazards.

"When we are about to cross a street," said Rosamund, "and I command her 'Forward', even if I can't hear a bike or electric car approaching, she won't move.

In malls she maneuvers around baby strollers, water fountains and booths. She finds store doors faster than I can. She knows the words for 'elevator' and 'escalator' and finds the tops and bottoms of them for me. Rory gives me added confidence and security to venture out into the world. We work as a team.

Rory only works 3-4 hours a day when we leave the house. At home she is a normal dog who loves rolling on her back, chewing her toys, chasing balls and befriending anyone at the front door. She loves working and the praise. When she hears me with her harness, she excitedly runs to get into it. At that moment, she switches character and totally focuses on guiding me.

Rory's memory is amazing! Once I had an appointment in a new building. We entered the foyer, I said 'elevator' and she guided me to it. I knew which floor button to push because they were marked with Braille, but I had no idea which way to turn when we exited. Often we are the only ones on the ride up. When we exited, because the room numbers were not tactile, I told her to take me to the nearest door, she did, we entered, and the receptionist directed us further. We left that office and

entered the correct one, #403. A year later, we went back to that building and Rory walked me to the elevator, and when we exited she took me directly to room 403.

For a different appointment, my husband drove and parked us close to the building. We walked to the door, took the elevator, and arrived on the fifth floor. Months later, Rory and I took the bus across town and it let us off at the far end of the block. I was not sure which direction to go, but Rory did! She walked us straight to the building, even though she had never walked down that street before!

Rory must wear a digital watch under her fur! Faithfully, at exactly 4:30 p.m. she lifts my husband's elbow with her nose for playtime. Animals are brilliant. Humans have underestimated their intelligence for too long. We hope Rory changes their perspective."

Everyone wants to feel loved and useful and Rory and Rosamund do this for each other. And Rory's moment of fame featured



Photo by Richard van Leeuwen

**Rosamund's seven-year-old Labrador guide dog, Rory, is probably the only dog named after a rabbit that caught a bus!**

in MODERN DOG magazine never went to her head!

On a funny note; one warm day Rosamund was walking the twelve blocks home up a steep mountain road when Rory deemed it too hot to walk. Rory heard a bus approaching a few blocks away, she sat at the curb and wouldn't budge. The bus arrived, the driver opened it's doors and jokingly asked, "Does your dog want a ride?" Rosamund responded, "Yes. As long as I can come with her." Everyone on board was giggling at the dog catching the bus!

### TIPS

"Never touch or talk to a harnessed service dog," teaches Rosamund. "Distraction could endanger its handler. It costs \$35,000 to train a guide dog. The money comes from donations and is appreciated by Rory, myself and other guide dogs recipients because they gift us a greater freedom."

Does your pet have a miracle, talent or funny story?  
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Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### SLSD plans kindergarten round-up

South Lane School District informs parents with children whose fifth birthday occurs on or before Sept. 1, 2016 that those children are eligible to enroll for kindergarten next fall, and parents can pre-register their kinder student anytime before then.

Dates and times are listed below. Those seeking additional information are asked to contact their area school directly.

Latham School — 942-0147  
April 20 from 2:30-4 p.m.

Bohemia — 942-3313  
April 21 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Dorena — 946-1506  
April 21 from 3-4 p.m.

Harrison — 942-3389  
May 11 from 2:30-4 p.m.

London — 942-0183  
May 11 from 4-5:30 p.m.

### Cemetery grant deadline

The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries is offering grants for qualified historic cemeteries.

Awards typically range between \$1,000 and \$6,000, but have been higher. Anyone can apply for a grant. The grant deadline is April 29, 2016.

To learn more about the grants or visit [www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org) or contact Kuri Gill at Kuri.Gill@oregon.gov or 503-986-0685.

### OSU Honor Roll

Names of students who have made the Scholastic Honor Roll Winter term have been announced by Oregon State University.

A total of 969 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,994 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

Students on the Honor Roll included:

From Cottage Grove:  
Straight-A average: Justin L. Bennett, Sophomore, English; Kolby C. Owens, Sophomore, Pre-Mechanical Engineering.

3.5 or Better: Desmond J. Gonzales, Senior, Exercise and Sport Science; Griffin G. Moser, Senior, Biology; Alexa A. Munsee, Senior, Digital Communication Arts.

From Creswell:  
3.5 or Better: Matthew E. Gerlach, Senior, Exercise and Sport Science; Sean P. Kounovsky, Sophomore, Pre-Ecological Engineering; Ren S. Rasmussen, Sophomore, Chemistry.

### Music at church

The Cottage Grove United Methodist Church is hosting graduate students from the University of Oregon School of Music on Saturday, April 23 at 1 p.m. This free event will feature sacred and secular music. The church is located at 334 Washington Avenue.

### Children's Health Fair

A Children's Health Fair will be held Saturday, April 23 from 2-6 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. This is free for all ages with free raffle prizes for parents and free giveaways for children. Guests can meet superheroes and emergency responders. Health, nutrition, safety and activity resources and over 15 organizations will be represented. The event is sponsored by Family Relief Nursery, and those seeking more information can call 541-942-4835.



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