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Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Our Family's Fowl Stories!

In 1907, my grandmother lived in an old gold mining town where the town's 18 children attended its one-room school. When her family needed produce, she walked by herself to a farm.

The farm had a bedraggled rooster. When she was six-years old, she was horrified to witness the farmer kick the bird. Just like Jack and the Beanstalk, my Grandmother forgot about the produce, paid the man for the rooster and carried it home.

The rooster's name is long forgotten, but not what he did. When the farmer came to visit her parents, the rooster recognized him and immediately herded all his "new" hens (sister-wives) into the hen house. He would not let the cackling bunch out until the cruel man left.

The rooster loved my grandmother's family. When she and her father took their nightly walks, the dog, the cat . . . and the rooster followed in a little parade.

Just like my grandmother taught her daughter, who taught her daughter (me), I taught my daughter, Ariel, to be kind to animals. Ariel is now teaching her children the same principles for their pets on their 11-chicken urban farm.

"Sweet Cheeks had some tangled feathers," said Ariel, "so I carried her into the kitchen (her first mistake) to trim some of them. Luckily, I don't have to do it often, because it's a challenge."

My grandson, Yossa, sat in his Easter Bunny gift, a little green chair, to watch his mother "doctor" the chicken. The boy is curious about everything that has to do with animals, so he had a front row seat right beside his mother. That was her second mistake!

"I flipped Sweet Cheeks over," said Ariel, "and focused on where to begin. All of a sudden everything exploded into fur and feathers!"

Probably because she was sleep deprived from the recent birth of her second child, Ariel forgot to check on the location of her three inside cats! (Major third mistake!)

That is when the barnyard musical, without the music, began!

Unseen, her black and white cat, Cecil, had entered the room. As quick as a flash, Cecil was on top of them! He must have thought she had brought in a bird "gift" for him and he was beyond thrilled, so he jumped up to claim it!

Ariel screamed!

The unhurt bird screamed and flew off

yelling, "Help!" "Help!" in Chickense.

The loud squawking scared Cecil, so he ran in the opposite direction.

Jumping up and scrambling behind his chair, Yossa's eyes had gone from intensely focusing on the "fowl medical treatment" to saucer size!

Now Ariel had two new problems: her other two cats ran in to witness the commotion while Sweet Cheeks was doing her best to run on wood floors.

When Ariel screamed, her husband put the baby down, and just like the cats, he rushed into chicken chaos central!

He found Ariel running after Sweet Cheeks while trying to keep the returned Cecil at bay. She caught the bird before the other two cats could unfreeze their startled stance. The felines' stunned and bewildered expressions asked, "What the heck is going on!" (Her husband was thinking the same thing!)

Their old deaf dog slept through it all. "After things settled down," said Ariel, "I couldn't stop laughing. Wish you had seen it, because you missed one good show! Just another day at our house! Sweet Cheeks was unhurt and is back with her flock and our family has lived through another hilarious pet experience."

Their family recently adopted some baby chicks. Nestled in their box in the car on the way home, little Yossa gently talked to them, soothing them. Then he helped his father put together their bedding, food/water and a warm light. The youngster was so thrilled about the new additions that at bedtime he climbed out of bed three times, checking on them and wishing them a "Good Night". He takes caring for his baby sister and chicks seriously. Oh, and he's named the chicks after three of his favorite things!

They shall hence forth be known as, "Halloween, Chocolate and Minion".

TIPS

Now when Ariel works on a chicken she takes it into the bathroom and closes the door. All three cats sit safely outside.

Cool Chickens!

Place a pan of water in front of a fan. The water evaporates, so refill often.

Use a water spray bottle to gently spray chickens.

Freeze water and corn in cupcake pans for fowl to peck during hot weather.



Photo by Ariel Mam

Angel Scribe's three-year-old grandson, Yossa, is a pint-size farmer. Ever since he could toddle, toss grain and collect eggs, he's been caring for chickens. The following comical chicken moments happened to our family over 100 years!

Dehydration in pets can lead to major health problems. Angelscribe's cats love their teal drinking fountain designed by a veterinarian. "Proper hydration plays a big role in a pet's health," said Willie Wallace, CEO of the PetSafe brand water fountain, "and can save pet parents a trip to their vet's office." www.PetSafe.net

Place water bowls outside for birds, wild animals, stray pets, bees and butterflies. With the water shortage, many communities are not watering lawns or running water fountains leaving insects/birds/animals without a water source.

Humans are comprised of 65 percent water. Tea and coffee are diuretics and deplete our water, requiring us to consume more water! Place FULL drinking glasses around the house/office, reminding you to drink water.

What is your funniest pet memory?
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Facts are stubborn things, but statistics are more pliable.

— Mark Twain

TIMBER

Continued from page 6A

cent, from 386 million board feet to 367. However, the USFS saw an increase of approximately 14 percent on Oregon's east side, notably in Grant and Harney counties, where stewardship contracting work is underway on the Malheur National Forest — the second consecutive year

of increases in locations where these collaborative agreements are in place. These east-side harvest levels were offset, however, by the decrease in harvest on national forests in western Oregon.

State forestlands increased from 230 million board feet in

2014 to 290 million board feet in 2015, for an overall 26 percent increase in timber harvest.

Private Industry harvest decreased statewide by 10 percent from 2014 to 2015 to 2.36 billion board feet. Non-industrial private landowners had an approximate 19 percent decrease

in harvest, statewide, for a 2015 total of 453 million board feet.

The 2015 Oregon Timber Harvest Report is available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx>. (Go to the subsection for "Datasets" and select "Oregon Timber Harvest Data".)



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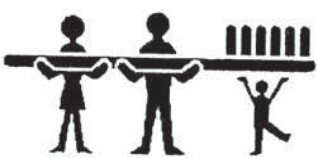
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