



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

A Mexican adventure

Silky, rescued amongst a starving pack of crack house dogs, was purr-eviously featured in Pet Tips 'n' Tales after landing in Lynda's lap of luxury. The hungry emaciated dog touched Lynda's heart when she did not dive into the food put down for her, but first carried some in her mouth, over to her thin puppy.

Silky and Lynda are inseparable. Silky attends Lynda's art shows and spends hours watching her create beautiful natural paintings. (www.whitefeather.ca) The pretty pup travels well in the car, loves her stroller (a converted baby buggy) and riding safely in an old back pack with a broken zipper. Her back pack is the purr-fect mode of transportation in airports on their frequent travels to visit Lynda's sister in Mexico.

"When flying with Silky," said Lynda, "I give her a few drops of the Bach's flower Rescue Remedy. It keeps her calm and relaxed for the four and a half hour flight."

Prior to their flight, Lynda took Silky outside the airport several times to "potty" but the dog refused to paw-ticipate. Once they finished at the ticket agent, Lynda again escorted Silky outside for a "last run". They barely made it through the double sliding doors when Silky urgently squatted and pooped in the main thoroughfare! Ooops! The timing and location weren't good, but the results made for a stress less trip.

In Mazatlán, on Saturday at 9 PM, Lynda and her sister were walking their dogs when Silky began howling in intense pain. "I saw an ugly, black four inch long scorpion, moving like a crab through the grass," said Lynda. "I picked up Silky and we ran into my sister's home and googled 'scorpion bite'. The computer declared it a medical emergency as death may occur and advised to immediately proceed to the veterinarian:

"My niece phoned her vet," said Lynda, "and she did not get an answer. I was going crazy trying to connect to a 24 hour vet, but miraculously her vet phoned and promised to come right over. It was heart wrenching watching Silky pace in pain. She had labored breathing and kept coughing, indicating her heart was struggling against the insect's poison. The vet arrived in 20 minutes and gave her an antidote shot. He sat with us an hour, checked her heart beat, and then gave her a second shot.

The vet felt, 'Silky is going to be OK' and promised to return in the morning. I tried calculating how much his visits would cost. At home it would paw-sibly be \$1000 for an emergency weekend call and treatment.

Silky's earlier history had left her distrustful of men, but the next morning when the vet arrived, she realized that he was the answer to her prayers, so she literally batted her long eye lashes at him,

thanking him with her heart through her eyes."

Lynda also felt like batting her eyes at the vet when he only charged her \$15 for three shots, an emergency visit, and an hour wait between shots and a next day check up visit!

Silky's recuperation went smoothly, and Lynda kept an eagle's eye out for scorpions on future walks.

"On our second trip to Mexico," said Lynda, "when we landed it had been 12 hours since Silky had seen daylight. At baggage claim, my heart dropped realizing that there would be a "slight" delay. My suitcases were isolated by an armed guard and his German Shepherd. He pointed to one of the suitcases and demanded, 'So what is in your suitcase that my dog likes?'

'Oh, thank goodness,' I thought, 'this won't be a problem after all!' The guard assumed that I had smuggled something forbidden into the country, but he relaxed and laughed when I responded, "Dog food!"

We and the suitcases were released for our next Mexican adventure."



TIPS

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CGPD releases neighborhood watch tips

By Caitlyn May
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After weeks of confusion and speculation regarding a possible neighborhood watch group in Cottage Grove, the local police department has released a set of ground rules in the hopes of clarifying the issue.

Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd spoke at the latest Stand up for Cottage Grove community meeting, promising the three residents who turned-out for the gathering, a checklist of sorts to better work with the police force.

"Not everything is an emergency," he said. "Unless some-

one is in imminent danger, it might not be an emergency call."

While the details of the neighborhood watch group are still under construction, Shepherd's list is clear.

It defines community awareness as being, "watchful of any unusual or suspicious persons, activities or vehicles."

That premise has been the topic of heated debate on social media and around the city as the group gears up to organize. While early discussions descended into arguments via social media and concern about whether or not the group intended to form an "armed militia,"

Shepherd assured residents he does not believe that to be the case.

He noted that original comments concerning firearms were taken out of context and he is comfortable with the group's intention of observing and reporting suspicious activity. However, Oregon is an open-carry state and those group members who wish to carry firearms during their time on the neighborhood watch are legally able to do so though Shepherd did discourage the notion of "patrolling" the streets, instead asking residents to "observe and report."

According to Shepherd's guidelines, residents should not

assume someone else observing suspicious behavior is reporting the possible crime.

"You risk nothing if you call the police and you are wrong," the document notes. "We would rather have you call and it be nothing, than not call and it turns out to be something serious."

The guidelines also lay-out the circumstances for each emergency line noting that 9-1-1 should be used for crimes in progress that are life-threatening or immediately damaging property.

For non-emergency calls, group members are asked to call (541) 942-9145 ext. 1. This number is also recommended for crimes that have already occurred and the suspect is no longer in the area.

For anonymous tips concerning crime in the city, Shepherd lists (541) 767-0504. The number is not to be used for an in-progress event as it is not monitored due to its anonymous nature.

Jail levy on the ballot

Lane County residents will have the opportunity to vote on Measure 20-271 in the coming weeks as ballots continue to be sent out. The measure, more commonly known as "the jail levy" or "public safety levy" would extend a similar measure approved by voters in 2013. The five-year levy allowed Lane County to expand its jail operations from 256 beds in 2013 to the current 317 the facilities utilize now. Prior to the passage of the 2013 levy, approximately 5,000 inmates were being released each year due to over crowding. In Cottage Grove, municipal inmates are often sent to Lane County due to a lack of Cottage Grove beds, only to be released due to their less serious charges and a lack of space.

The levy, if approved, would include a 55 cent tax per every \$1,000 of assessed home value.

While the current levy passed in 2013 does not expire until the middle of next year, the Lane County Sheriff's Office is hoping to continue the current level of service without interruption.

"Before the levy was approved, we were releasing people, including in 2012, three people on pending homicide charges," Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp said. And while room is still an issue, Trapp says those who are released are non-violent offenders.

The 2013 levy requires that the facility maintain 255 beds, 62 beds less than what is currently being offered.

Residents can find the levy and an explanation of the request on their ballots. If residents have not yet received their ballots they are asked to contact Lane County Elections at (541) 682-4234.



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