



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Max gives the terms "Take-out Dinner," "Fast Food," and "Dinner on the Run" new meanings! Max, a six-year-old neutered male, is smarter than most cats and as you can see by the photo of him nesting in a bird feeder, he hopes to also outsmart birds!

Max is lucky to be alive because he was found abandoned on a country road as a kitten.

After work Kay was focused on driving home along the long, winding country road. She was anxious to get started on her ranch chores with their 100 beef cows and calves. Out of the corner of her eye, she spotted something beside the tall, wild grass on the highway's shoulder.

"I stopped, backed up, and there was a kitten!" explains a shocked Kay. "I mean in the middle of nowhere! There were no houses for several miles. I was instantly angry. Someone had cruelly dropped him off to starve. This nightmare often happens out here. People drop off cats in farming areas assuming a farm can support them. We can't!"

Times have changed; many of the farms in our area are owned by residents who are retired, unemployed, or on assistance. They are struggling to pay their taxes. Many no longer have animals or can just barely support their remaining animals. There is no way they can be financially responsible or burdened with another pet. Barn cats are often left fending for themselves. And here was another one needing a human's help."

Kay climbed out of her truck, walked toward the kitten, and a whole new version of the game of hide-and-seek began. "He ran and hid, crouching down in the tall grass.

Luckily for the kitten, I was faster and more determined than he was. Imagine someone leaving this helpless baby to starve! I caught him, and then saw three more kittens. Try as I might, I could not catch them. I even went back the next day, but I could not find them. The kittens were probably some other animal's late-night snack. Thinking of them still haunts me today.

When I climbed back into the car, I lay the kitten on my chest up by my neck. He cuddled and I talked to him on the drive home. Maybe this has something to do with his habit of still thinking he should fit up there today.

When I first arrived home with him as a kitten, we were already

'maxed out' on pets, so we named him Max. He is a full-grown cat now but when I am in my favorite chair, he still loves curling up and sleeping on my shoulder and he is now far too big! He also loves sleeping on the computer's mouse pad. Somehow that seems fitting.

My husband admits that Max is on the spoiled side. But so are we. When we ask for a kiss, Max gives us his Eskimo-kitty version and rubs his cold, wet nose on the tip of our nose.

After we've been away from the ranch all afternoon, Max comes running over to us just like a dog, and he acts like he really missed us. We have seven other cats, and none of them has ever done this. Because they are cats, we don't expect they ever will either," laughs Kay.

Last winter, a beautiful orange tom cat mysteriously arrived at Kay and Andy's ranch. Another case of dumping. None of their neighbors has cats. This makes one wonder about the intelligence of humans. How much education will it take for us to learn that neutering or spaying are so necessary and that dumping is so inhumane?

TIPS

When no longer able to care for a pet relinquish it to an animal shelter.

During hot spells place water bowls outside for wild and lost pets.

Hot pavement burns dogs' paws. Place your hand palm up on the sidewalk or road. If it is too hot to leave your hand down, then it will also burn a pet's paws.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteers needed

WOE's Heritage Fair needs volunteers to help with the organization's 85th lumberjack show on August 18 through August 20. To volunteer, contact Ken at (541) 658-9230.

Concerts in the Park

Concerts in the Park will resume after last week's cancellation due to heat warnings. The Huckleberrys will perform Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Bohemia park. Free of charge.

Jaw Harp Festival

North American Jaw Harpists Meet and Greet will take place on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Axe and Fiddle. No charge. The following night, the jaw harp festival will take place at the armory from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Afternoon workshops available. Performances begin 5 p.m. Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The Good Doctor

Cottage Theatre's latest play, The Good Doctor will continue showing Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30. The play is a series of sketches narrated by "The Writer." Tickets available at Cottage Theatre and online at cottagetheatre.org. \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages six through 18.

Emergency Fair

An emergency preparedness fair will be held at Cottage Theatre on Saturday, August 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Features prizes, emergency vehicle display, LifeFlight helicopter, informational booths, exhibits and more. Food by Big Stuff BBQ.

Yoga event

The Hanuman Project and Friends Kirtan music event is Thursday August 17 from 7:30-9:30

P.M. at Crescent Moon Yoga in Cottage Grove

819 E. Main St.

Upcoming events at Delight

Anime Club - Saturdays, Aug 5 & 19; 4:30 p.m.

Artwalk - Friday, Aug 25 from 6-8 p.m.

Board Games Tuesdays 6-8 pm

Dungeons & Dragons Saturdays 12 to 4:30 p.m.

Pokemon Tuesdays 3-5 p.m.

Role Playing Games Thursdays 3:30-8 p.m.

Yu-Gi-Oh Wednesdays 3-5 p.m.

Museum

Current Cottage Grove Museum exhibit: Christening gowns from the late 19th and early 20th centuries through Labor Day with the Buster Keaton, The General move exhibit continuing.

BMD BBQ

Bohemia Mining Days sponsors and volunteers are invited to a thank you BBQ on Friday at 6 p.m. in Coiner Park. Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 9 by contacting Cindy Weeldreyer at (541) 942-4493.

Humane Society sale

The Cottage Grove Humane Society will be hosting a Name Your Price sale on Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall at 826 W. Main St. Clearance, all reasonable offers accepted. Proceeds to go to animals in the Cottage Grove community.

South Valley Farmer's Market

The South Valley Farmer's Market will be open at the corner of Main St. and 7th St. from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday. Eat fresh, buy local, fresh, organic produce, starts, eggs, meat, baked goods and homemade crafts.

City Council

The city council will meet at city hall on Monday, August 14 at 7 p.m. after taking a break during the Eugene Symphony performance in July. The agenda will be available on the city's website.



Cottage Theatre presents

August 11-27



Comical Russian tales infused with American wit

THE GOOD DOCTOR

By Neil Simon and Anton Chekhov

Directed by Kory Weimer Sponsored by: USbank

Tickets available online, by phone, or at the door one hour before performance
Thursday-Saturday 8:00 pm; Sunday 2:30 pm. \$25 Adult, \$15 Youth (age 6-18)

541-942-8001 • 700 Village Drive • Cottage Grove

www.cottagetheatre.org

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