



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Miku, 14-years-old, and her dog, Saku, were both born in Arizona, seven years apart, to different parents. Miku's parents are Japanese, and Saku's are Dachshunds.

Imagine Miku's surprise when she received the two-month-old puppy as her Christmas present! For the special occasion, Saku was dressed in a bright red bow as she was 'gifted' to Miku.

"I named her Sakura," explains Miku, "because it is a pretty name and in Japanese it means 'cherry blossom'. We nicknamed her Saku."

Saku is not a fragile flower! She is a wild and crazy athlete! When she is overcome with uncontrollable joy, she runs as fast as she can in huge circles around her family for long periods of time without displaying fatigue.

"She reminds me of a horse racing at full speed," laughs Miku.

It sounds like Saku's breed should be spelled DASH-hound! Usually, the Dachshund

is a tenacious hunter known for chasing small animals, birds and balls with a stubborn and unyielding focus, which explains why off-leash in a park, Saku's passionate about chasing any brave squirrel that dares make themselves visible. She relentlessly chases squirrel after squirrel. Luckily, she never catches the tail-twitching tree rodents, which is

a relief to her family. . . and the squirrels! And when she races through tall grass, her family laughs as she leaps and jumps up and down, in the vegetation, for a better view, like a prancing deer or rabbit.

Saku truly dislikes running water (streams, rivers and the ocean) or going near it. This makes living in the Pacific Northwest difficult with water, water everywhere!

"Arizona is not this wet," Saku would tell us!

When Saku's family walks over bridges, she digs her claws into the earth, putting all her doggy weight into her back-leg brakes. She refuses to move so they have to carry the reluctant "princess" over the moats. But, like any deep brown-eyed romantic lady, Saku, is always up for long walks on the beach — just not near the water.

Dachshunds are known as clever dogs and Miku is — she's bilingual. "She responds accurately to "come, stay, or sit" in

English," explains Miku, "But she also understands these and many other Japanese words."

The name "Dachshund" in German translates to "badger dog," and the breed is known for tunneling into burrows to flush out burrow-dwelling animals like badgers and rabbits.

This explains Saku's penchant for sleeping (burrowing) under her family's beds, especially when it is "rainy outside". ("Yuck! Rain!" says Saku.) Her breed is so well known for burrowing that cozy 'burrow beds' are now available for them online.

Being from Arizona, one of Saku's favorite pastimes is "soaking up the sun until she starts panting," said Miku.

"My family and I walk more now than we did B.D. (Before Dog). Having parks nearby benefit our dog's health and ours. Walking Saku helps us exercise and she also creates more opportunities for making new friends. People easily spark up conversations with us.

Another benefit is that my dog provides companionship and makes me laugh. Having Saku has given me a greater respect for living things. When I was small, I was afraid of dogs, but by caring for one, my fear disappeared. Saku has taught me to see through her eyes and how to care for others.

When my mother cooks meat," said Miku, "Saku sits under the table and licks my legs asking for a

meat-treat, so I always sneak her some.

I hope, one day, to have children and give them their favorite pet for Christmas. Saku is the best friend and memory I have!"

TIPS

"A big dog needs lots of room and because our family lives in an apartment," said Miku, "Saku is perfect for us. Our apartment's floor is sleek, so to prevent Saku's from slipping and hurting her long back, we covered the floor with a rug for her safety. It is an easy solution to purr-rect her from injury."

Peanut Butter Dog Biscuits

2 cups whole wheat flour
1 cup rolled oats
1/3 cup peanut butter (chunky or smooth)
1 1/4 cups hot water
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

- Mix dry ingredients together.

- Mix in the peanut butter and hot water - add more flour if the dough is sticky.

- Knead the dough well.

- Roll out into 1/4 inch thickness and cut into shapes with dog cookie cutter.

Roll the dough into a rectangle, put on a cookie sheet and score into 1 inch squares. After it bakes and cools, snap them into squares. Store the treats in the fridge for up to three weeks or place in the freezer.

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Eclipse

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Traffic is expected to clog the interstate with tourists expected to begin coming into the state on Friday.

A domino effect will take place: the more people, the more traffic, the more traffic, less data, less data, slower internet, slower internet, less phone signal, ATM access and card readers may be down. The moral of the story? If you can, stay home and off the freeway. Bring cash with you if you plan on visiting any local stores. Even though school is still out, parents if you have a report due that needs to be emailed or researched online, the earlier it's completed and sent, the better.

While cities closer to the path of totality have reported a myriad of businesses opting to close, as of press time, no Cottage Grove businesses had made the same decision. Rather, the cities hotels are fully booked for August 20, the night before the eclipse. However, city councilor Jake Boone recommended during Monday night's city council meeting that residents stock up on food, medications and other necessities they may need from town, citing the increase in demand due to the tourists.

It's not all bad news for Oregonians who are victims of the biggest tourist draw this year. Local business, Delights has NASA approved eclipse glasses and city parks are open for viewing. Agencies have repeatedly warned viewers not to look directly at the sun and to use only approved glasses to view the eclipse.

The eclipse is expected to pass over Oregon at Newport at 10:15 a.m. and reach the area of Lane County around 10:18 a.m. In all, it will be over Oregon by 10:25 p.m.

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City adjusts SDC fees for SLSD

After some confusion, board approves combination of credits

By Caitlyn May
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After an amended amendment, two motions and three votes, the Cottage Grove City Council approved a resolution to allow the South Lane School District (SLSD) to combine its SDC (System Development Charges) fees from the old high school property and current Harrison Elementary property to cover the costs of transpor-

tation SDC fees at the site of the future Harrison Elementary School on Taylor Ave.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart presented the issue to the board noting that SLSD could save \$51,263.24 on transportation SDCs for the new elementary school by transferring credits it had from the old elementary school to the new school.

However, councilman Jake Boone raised concern stating

that the law mandates that SDCs are site specific. The former Harrison school is located on a different piece of land than the new Harrison school.

"The reason SDCs exist is they're the cost to do stuff. We only charge them once when a building is built," Boone said. "To double them here, I'm not trying to screw the school district but I don't want to screw us either. We can't just take money from the city side and shuttle it to the school district. This \$50,000 was not arrived at by just pulling something from the air and I'm hesitant to alter it willy nilly. The law is pretty clear."

However, Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers assured the board that the city attorney had approved the plan and noted that while the law mandates the SDCs be location specific, legal counsel determined that since the impact of traffic was moving from one site to the other in the same area, it was permissible.

While Stewart's suggestion would allow the school district to choose to use credits from either the old high school or old elementary school, councilor Mike Fleck made the argument to allow the school to combine both sets of fees.

"I'm just trying to be fair," he said. "They're losing the credits when there has been no additional impact."

South Lane School District's Maintenance Manager Matt Allen addressed the council saying, "They (the fees) caught us by surprise because we asked the former planning director for budgeting reasons what the SDCs would be and there was no mention of transportation SDCs," he said, noting that SLSD had granted the city an easement in the area. "We're not griping, Faye and Amanda (Ferguson) have been so helpful but this did catch us by surprise when we're already in budget trouble."

Boone made a motion to approve the resolution at the stated amount, which was seconded. Fleck then made a motion to amend the resolution to reduce the \$51,263.24 to \$25,000 which was seconded. However, due to legalities, Fleck's amended had to be amended to note his desire to combine the credits at the two properties because the city has no mechanism to decrease SDC fees.

"It would open the door for people to come in and say they were surprised by the number," Meyers said. Eventually, the vote to combine passed 5-2.

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