



# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



exquisitely marked Maine Coon cat.

They had "issues" when they flew back home. The kitten was not allowed to fly in the passengers' cabin, so intelligent Qelsey registered Einstein as an Emotional Support Animal and soon they were homeward bound.

The only other "slight" issue with her was quickly overcome when it came time to spay their exotic looking cat. The vet advised them to have it "neutered", instead of spayed, because "she" was apparently a "he"!

Their now year-old cat is already 15 pounds and still growing into, "The biggest cuddly cat," said Qelsey. "He is also muscular from exercising on his home gym, but the only weights he lifts are his catnip toys. Today, he is ten times the size

he was when Lucas found him. Whenever we return home, Einstein runs and greets us at the door. He is more dog than cat!"

The outdoors is the cat's jogging track, so paw-ibly that is why I met them on a hiking trail! Einstein is leash trained. He loves exploring the forest. It was unusual, but fun, seeing a cat on a dog-and-horse trail!

Einstein has walked on a leash since he was a feline toddler. He use to follow his human parents on their strolls around the neighborhood, so adding a leash to the walk added to his safety.

As dog owners spot the stripped cat, they respectfully attached leashes; and everyone went happily on their way without any bark or fuss.

At home, imagine this cat entertaining

his family when he releases his wild side spontaneously jumping like a kangaroo and pouncing on flowers! Or, out of the blue, he begins his version of "crazy cat play" sporadically leaping up and racing around the house.

"In contrast to his powerful athletic abilities, after his stretches, Einstein lays on top of his tall climbing post and illustrates his lazy side," said Qelsey. "He can lie there without lifting his head or a whisker and can see what is going on around him!"

Animals' great-full hearts are amazing. Not only is Einstein happy to be the couple's "only baby" he is connected to them as if they are his biological parents. "I've always treated him like a baby" said Qelsey, "so he thinks he is human! He melts my heart. He thinks that we helped him by rescuing him from a life of starvation and danger, but he's done more to improve our lives and bring us pure joy!"

#### TIPS

"Begin regular trimming of your kitten's nails when they're young," said Qelsey. "Einstein is used to it now so there is no fussing! Also, his diet contains raw cat food for his nutritional needs which ensures his shiny coat."

Tell us your fun/amazing/crazing pet tips and tales.

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## Cycle Oregon to refund money

By Caitlyn May

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For the first time in Cycle Oregon's history, organizers called it quits.

The cancellation of the nearly 500 miles bike ride came after wildfires continued to burn around the state and air quality continued to be measured as unhealthy or hazardous due to the smoke.

However, those organizations and municipalities that were gearing up financially for the annual event may get a reprieve.

"They're refunding money," Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said. "They released a statement and you sort of have to read between the lines on some of what they're saying to the riders."

The statement opens by stating: We believe in Oregon. We believe you do too.

For three more paragraphs executive director Steve Schulz acknowledges the wildfires and notes the effects those wildfires have had on neighboring communities.

"While we're not obligated to refund any funds to our riders, that's not who we are. You trust us to do the right thing. And the right thing is to take care of you and the Oregon communities that have continued to take care of us over the last 30 years," he

wrote.

Riders, the organization noted, could expect a \$500 refund of their registration fee. However, it noted that in lieu of a refund, riders could donate the \$500 to the rural communities affected by the wildfires.

Those that purchases tent, porter, bus and parking tickets among other purchases would receive a full refund.

Cottage Grove was not directly in the path of the 30th anniversary ride but bikers were expected to come in from Dorena and camp in Schwarz Park.

As a result, local non-profits and other groups--approximately 18--signed up to volunteer. Though Cycle Oregon pays volunteers in that capacity. There were spaces for groups to unpack luggage and help unload trucks, set tables and various other duties. The groups use the event as an opportunity to fundraise. As for whether or not those groups would be receiving a refund as well, Meyers said it would vary from situation to situation.

"It would depend," Meyers said. "If you signed up to unload luggage, you didn't spend any money, but if you signed up to decorate the tables and you already purchased some of the things then you'll be reimbursed and I think they already started that."

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Free camping

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites volunteers to celebrate National Public Lands Day by planting trees and shrubs at Schwarz Campground below Dorena Dam, Saturday, Sept. 30. The event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Schwarz Campground and volunteers will also receive a free lunch. Volunteers should pre-register no later than Sept. 15 by contacting a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers park ranger at (541) 942-5631. For more information about National Public Lands Day, go to <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>.

### 912 project meeting

SLFD Chief John Wooten will discuss the extension of the fire levy that will be on November's ballot at the next meeting of the Cottage Grove 912 Project on Monday, October 18th, 6:30 PM, at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, 401 E Main. All are welcome.

### DNA testing

The Genealogy Society will be hosting DNA Testing to determine your ancestry, at 10 a.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center on Wednesday, September 13.

### Jam session

Ukulele Jam will take place at the Cottage Grove Library at 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 14.

### VFW dinners

VFW will be hosting its Friday night dinners again beginning this Friday at 5:30 pm. at the lodge. Call (541) 942-7099 for more information.



## CRUISE INTO FALL WITH SHADY OAKS' Classic Car Show

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