



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Chris and Bill immediately inform guests of the "Cody Rules" because their 85 pound, yellow Labrador-able Retriever, Cody, retrieves all year long! Shoes remain either outside or locked safely in a room. Bathroom doors remain closed preventing toilet paper from mysteriously "walking off". He can stealthily sneak under the dinner table and steal the "napkin on your lapkin".

"Bill and I keep our bedroom closet closed because Cody has an affinity for bras! His worst offense was parading with my

bra into the room where our male guest was seated. Since Cody loves food, we ask him, 'Do you want a job?' He licks his lips meaning, 'Yes'. For his paycheck of a piece of cheese, he has to bring us the "baby" we ask for. You might think that Cody has his own Toyland account, because he has 40 plus purr-sonally named stuffed 'babies': Alie, Crock, Crow, Ducky, Ellie, Frog, Gator, Hershey, Octo, Pink Piggy, Purple, Racer, Santa Baby, Socky, Squirrel, etc. (Bill and I hope to prevent Alz-

heimer's since we, too, must remember all these names.) The room with his basket of babies is down a long hallway, so Cody has to leave us and search for the right toy, then return with it for his paycheck. One evening while watching the news, something purr-posterous was reported and I involuntarily shouted out, "That's a CROCK of (. . .)!!!!" The next thing we knew, Cody was standing before us with his "CROC"odile baby patiently waiting for his piece of cheese." Cody's sock fetish leads him to s-t-r-e-t-c-h socks off a person's foot. So last Christmas, their granddaughter lovingly wrapped two freshly laundered socks for him. His unusual multi-colored lined oversized handbag was Chris' friend's, who let Cody carry it when she arrived and left. He'd proudly hold the purse's handles in his mouth, as he walked her to or from her vehicle, the purse would drag between his feet, and all the while he would grin and happily wag his tail. The friend knew how much he loved it, so she gave it to him for Christmas. Chris purr-oudly hangs Bill's, Cody's, and her Christmas stockings on the mantel. Last year she found a cuter one for Cody, (Note: her husband gets to keep his old one!), so she hung up the new one "with

care." A few days later, Bill and Chris were chatting when she saw an empty spot where Cody's stocking "was supposed to be". "The crazy part," said Chris, "is that the hanger was still in place and our two stockings hadn't been disturbed." I asked Bill if he'd moved the stocking. "No." He asked if I had. "Of course not!" So, we started a room to room search for it, with Cody. Then I had an 'Aha moment' and went to the bedroom. The missing colorful, now wrinkled stocking, all nestled in for its long winter's nap, at the foot of our bed, on our comforter. Cody had 'retrieved' his new stocking, brought it back to bed, and slept with it! It doesn't look new anymore but it's obviously loved."

Whether Cody was checking his stocking early for presents from Santa or mad at it for not being his traditional one, we'll never know, but it is back hanging on their mantel - for now. How he extricated his stocking without that heavy hook tumbling down still astonishes us."

Not only is their home and Christmas tree decorated for Christmas, but so is Cody. Chris places a Christmas collar adorned with a bell on it around his neck. Obviously, the jingles were not loud enough to wake the sleeping couple during their dog's recently planned theft!

Christmas Pet Tips
If you only drove to the dentist, you would hate car rides as much as your cat who only goes to a vet. To train our cats to love car rides, we take them out to enjoy Christmas lights. When we came to a house with a lot of lights on it, they all look at it. It is a fun way to acclimate a cat to car trips.

Note: Keep a litter box, in the same location, in the car, because car rides are connected to a cat's plumbing.

Tell us your funny pet story! angelscribe@msn.com

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South Lane student killed on Hwy. 99



Wesley Meadows, 13, was killed on Dec. 6 while riding his bicycle on Hwy. 99, north of Cottage Grove. 85-year-old Richard L. Perini was named as the driver of the 2002 pickup truck that hit the boy and is cooperating with the investigating. He is not suspected of any wrongdoing. Meadows was a student at Lincoln Middle School in Cottage Grove. According to South Lane School District Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens, counselors were brought in for students affected by the incident and further arrangements are being made throughout the week. Authorities report that Meadows was attempting to cross the road when he was struck. He was not wearing a helmet. Meadows died at the scene. Meadows' family posted to their personal Facebook accounts sharing details of the boys' life and their grief. To donate to the family and contribute to funeral costs, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/funeral-costs-for-a-grieving-family>.

Packages Continued from A1

their orders to their workplace (if sanctioned by their management team) or to a friend who works from home or is retired. Officials say empty houses make for easy targets and packages have a better chance of making it to the rightful owner if they're signed for or arrive at an occupied house. Other deterrents on the list include a well-lit front yard, dogs and if the problem becomes persistent, a security camera. According to CGPD, a good quality security video is the best source of evidence once a case of stolen packages is reported.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lights contest
The city's Christmas lights contest is back. Entries are due to city hall by Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. Only displays that can be judged from the street are eligible. Winners will be announced on Dec. 20.

Ms. Claus
Ms. Claus will visit the Cottage Grove Library on Monday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. in the children's room. All are invited.

Trees of Joy
Trees of Joy are available at WalMart and BiMart. Residents are invited to choose a tag off the tree to sponsor a child this holiday season. The deadline to return gifts is Dec. 17.

Carousel
Friends of the Carousel invite the public to get involved. To learn how, call 942-4752.

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