



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



You have seen people who look like their pets, but how about looking like Grandma? Bugaboo (Buggy), a two-year-old Wheaten Terrier belongs to Maureen's daughter and son-in-law, but his fur and Maureen's hair are the same riveting cut and color creating a smiley face situation!

Bugaboo's "father" is a Boy Scout leader who enjoys snow camping, mountains and skiing. He named their dog after British Columbia's Bugaboo mountain range known for its challenging ski runs. (Keeping with tradition, maybe their next dog, if a female, might be named after the Olympic skier Peek-a-Boo?)

"The first time we dog-sat Buggy was when our daughter and her husband went to Mexico for a week," said Maureen. "It turned out that there are 11 days in their week! Buggy was three-months-old and he resembled a wiggly furry-brown teddy bear exploding with energy. He arrived for 'his vacation' with a large travel crate filled with his toys, blanket, food, water bowl and leash. The last item they hauled into our house was a carpet cleaning machine! We inquired, 'Why did you bring that?'"

"You'll see", came the prophetic response. And of course, they did see! Within moments!

"In spite of ending up with the cleanest carpets in the neigh-

borhood," said Maureen, "we thoroughly enjoyed our 'week' with our new grand-dog."

The advice "Get a pet! They introduce you to everyone!" proved true. When Maureen took Buggy out every two hours for a walk, he pranced, danced and sniffed his way along the streets. They had to make frequent stops for other walkers to "ooh", "aah" and pet the cuddly teddy bear. "We ran into neighbors we never knew existed," laughed Maureen.

At home, bouncy Buggy would leap straight up onto anyone daring to sit on their sofa. A quiet read of the newspaper resulted in glasses flying and the newspaper in shreds, but Maureen admitted, "his affectionate snuggling more than made up for the loss of the news or our nerves."

After returning Buggy to his parents, our home returned to its normal tidy-clean "before Buggy" state, but we sorely missed the special delightful ball of champagne-colored fluff who brought such joy."

Luckily for Buggy and his pet parents, Grandma's home is always available for overnight and long stays. Babysitting him is easier because Buggy has now grown into a well-behaved dog with no need of the carpet cleaning machine.

"We have a seven year old "human" grandson, Aaron, a "cousin" to Bugaboo, who also enjoys staying overnight at our home. He loves grooming Buggy, taking him for walks, feeding him and spending time burying his face in to Buggy's soft long fur. Buggy loves all the attention."

One visit, our grandson wanted to know what a dog's life was like so he climbed into Buggy's travel crate, curled up on Buggy's clean blanket and took a nap. When he awoke, Aaron sat in front of the crate, on his haunches, beside Buggy, and lapped up water from his very own water dish next to Buggy's.

We enjoyed having two "dogs" but found our grandson, while equally cute as Buggy, not nearly as furry," laughs Maureen. "Children and dogs are fun and the combination creates wonderful family memories!"

TIPS

Prior to adding fertilizers, weed killers or pesticides to your yard and garden read the label and follow your instincts to protect pets. Pets walk across lawns, then lick their paws it is vital you know what they are ingesting. "Adverse reactions can mimic an anaphylactic reaction like vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, hair loss and labored breathing," said Elizabeth Maimon, DVM, MPH.

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Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox

Another year, another birthday

At my age, birthdays aren't as much fun as they used to be. In fact, they can be downright depressing. This process of getting older and aging gracefully is serious business. Last week's birthday was particularly sobering. I'm not 80 years old yet but I'm sure looking at it. Instead of a fancy dinner, cake, ice cream and balloons celebration, I find myself saying, "Let's just go to a late lunch so we can be home before dark!"

I am, however, still looking at the future but it looks a whole lot different than when I was 12, 24, 36, or even 66 years old. Instead of singing "Happy days are here again," I look in the mirror and somewhat incredulously say, "What happened?" Some say that age is only a number. The mirror disagrees.

The following quote reminds me that time marches on but I still have work to do: "No one gets out of this world alive, so the time to live, learn, care, share, celebrate and love is now." To those words, I would add...it's also time to plan for the inevitable end of life changes because these years are more complicated the beginning!

A "normal" Biblical life span was about 70 years. Today, an average life expectancy in the 21st century, ranges from 76.4 years for a man to 81.2 years for a woman (subject to change). That means that some of us will miss the target and others will be over-achievers. (It's also a reminder to tell our loved ones often that we love and appreciate them.)

One of the ways we can do that is by letting our families know how we want to be remembered. There is so much stress at the time of a loved one's passing that the least we can do is to put together a packet of information about ourselves that will spare them a world of grief:

Birthdate, birthplace, places we lived, marriages, children, jobs, etc. You may think that everyone knows these things but you would be surprised at what a mystery your early life is to most of your family.

Finn John, my long-time editor, mentor and friend asked me several times to write a column

we had to bite the bullet and let the family know how we wanted our "stuff" distributed—A Will or a Trust? We decided to go with a revocable living trust, a will, advanced directives and powers of attorney. Ugh. There are lots of do-it-yourself kits for this process but we went to our attorney and said, "Help!"

It was hard for us to wrap our brains around some decisions —how do you chose one kid over another to be "in charge"? Carefully. But now that it's done, no one should worry and wonder about our wishes. Our process consisted of decisions on such things as:

1. A Trust, a Will or both?
2. Appointing someone to be a successor trustee.
3. Appropriate document information.
4. How our property will be dispersed.
5. Health Care Directives.
6. Anything else that is important to you.
7. Signing the documents and getting them notarized.
8. Storing the trust document safely.
9. Reviewing the documents periodically.

on obituaries but I procrastinated. Then, my mother died and I was tasked with writing her obit. How does one sum up a lifetime of living in a few words? It was no easy task. She was an only child and died at the age of 94. She had also outlived most of her peers and relatives.

Clearly, neither I nor my siblings knew as much as we thought about this woman we called mother. Fortunately, my Aunt Kathryn was still alive and able to direct me to the correct information. i.e. I thought that mother was born in Butterfield, Missouri. No, she was born in Duenwegl. Oops! Putting in the wrong birthplace could have confused generations to come.

Putting together mother's obituary inspired me to write the requested do-it-yourself obit columns. My husband and I followed the advice and wrote our own obits. They are now safely filed on my computer. Then

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Our decisions were all made many years ago. Now we're re-thinking some of the things that seemed crystal clear then and making changes. That's why periodic review is necessary.

So how to sum this all up? Well, I know that getting this legal stuff done is a pain in the tush. But it is important. But if you are over 65 years of age and haven't gotten your thoughts down on paper don't delay any longer. Begin today. You'll be glad that you did and you can get on with living the rest of your life in joy and peace. Can I get an Amen?

P.S. Happy Birthday to my fellow Capricorns!

CONTACT BETTY BY EMAILING:
BCHATTY@BETTYKAISER.COM

2018 Reader Survey

The Cottage Grove Sentinel is requesting your feedback to help improve our local community newspaper.

You can visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7G23RL7> to complete the survey or drop off your completed survey at our office or mail it to the Cottage Grove Sentinel, P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

1. How do you take your Sentinel?
 - Paid Subscription
 - Newspaper Box or Store
 - Online only
2. What is your age?
 - 62 or older
 - 50-61
 - 35-49
 - 25-34
 - 24 and under
3. Why do you read the Sentinel?
 - To stay up to date on Community happenings
 - For a regular feature/column(s)
 - To read about people I know
 - To stay current on a particular issue
 - Tell us more _____
4. What would you most like to see more of in the Sentinel?
 - Pictures, stories about interesting local people
 - Crime, court reporting
 - Detailed reporting of meetings, government activity
 - Opinion, perspectives from community members and editorial staff
 - Recreation reporting
 - School News
 - Other (please specify) _____
5. Aside from the Sentinel, what are your most trusted sources for news that impacts your life? _____
6. In general, do you prefer:
 - In-depth analysis of the issues
 - Shorter, snappier stories with engaging photos on a wider variety of topics
 - News with a positive message and impact
 - Investigative, hard-hitting news that adheres to the facts, however unpleasant they may be
 - Other (please specify) _____
7. Which of the following do you or your family read?
 - Comics Page
 - Kid Scoop
 - Other (please specify) _____
8. How would you rate our new website experience?
 - Much better
 - Just right
 - Poor
 - Other (please specify) _____
9. Do you use the e-Edition?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Other (please specify) _____
10. Which, if any, social media platforms do you use to access news and information? _____
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