



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Sol to soul

Nate named his Mexican-mutt rescue "Sol", because the "sun" of their love rises and sets on each others "souls".

Sol's mother was homeless, hungry and pregnant when she sought refuge in a Colima garden. Hoping that she had found a safe place, she dug a hole under a wall and delivered nine bouncing babies.

As fate would have it, the family that owned the garden fell in love with her. They took her in, named her Negra and once weaned, brought the puppies to the Baja Dog Rescue. (<http://bajadogslapaz.org>). Their kindness saved Negra and her puppies from a hard life of worms, mange, starvation, or injuries from cars, people and other dogs.

At the time, Nate, a music therapist who works with children with special needs, lived 3,000 miles away, and was searching for a dog to work at his side, one that would be beneficial for his clients.

"Dogs have a way of supporting people that nothing else can," said Nate. "When I saw Sol's picture online I knew he was my partner. He is an absolute dream of a dog. He's calm, gentle and patient with a beautiful spirit of love and kind-

ness. He accompanies me to children's sessions because he loves them and has an amazing ability to bring joy, safety, and comfort to them. One of 'our' clients arrived extremely shy but immediately upon seeing Sol, smiled and opened up. She and Sol spent the entire session snuggled up together.

Sol is naturally gentle, compassionate, quiet, and patient with the special needs children; but he has all the goofiness and joy of a puppy to make everyone laugh."

Nate's furry companion enjoys hiking, kayaking, camping and daily walks to the ocean with his best buddy.

"I am lucky and forever grateful having such a special charismatic dog to share this beautiful world," said Nate. "We have forests, mountains, oceans and streams to play in. He's introduced me to people that I would never have met. He's my partner, best friend, and companion that I love with all my heart. He has gone from homeless to healer of the heart and I can't imagine life without him."

Sol's siblings were adopted from Seattle's airport into neighboring states and Canada! Last month, Nate and Sol joined everyone in Seattle to celebrate

the pups' first birthday. It was a wild party! The dogs remembered each other and played into exhaustion!

TIPS

When 95-year-old Tips 'n' Tales reader Bea was a child, her mother did not allow cats in the house. Bea loved kitties so at night time, she let her favorite cat, Topsy, inside, and hid it in her bed. Her bed's mattress had a hole, and the kitty knew to crawl into it and hide until Bea's mother did a final check of the room for a cat. Her suspicious mother looked under the bed, never realizing that Topsy had outsmarted her. After her mother left, Topsy emerged and snuggled with Bea. Where there is a loving heart - there is a way!

Is your pet feeling sickly? Pet food activist Susan Thixton said, "After the recent hurricanes, many areas went without power. We conservatively estimated that grocery stores lost 15 million pounds of meat and groceries. Guess where all that spoiled meat goes? To a landfill? No. The spoiled meat is purchased by meat salvage

companies and is converted into your pets' food.

Spoiled frozen foods and dairy products will be diverted to livestock feed. Sometimes the paper, plastic and Styrofoam packaging will be removed, sometimes it won't. When your pet refuses to eat a food, or appears ill or vomits always question the food they are eating." Unbelievable! Pentobarbital found in pet food. Huge pet food recalls! Is your pet ill? Check FDA webpage (www.fda.gov) for your pet's food brand.

VIDEO: Polite Canadian asking bears to leave his yard.

<https://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/video-b-c-mans-polite-encounter-with-bears-praised-for-being-so-canadian/>

What is your fur-avorite pet memory/adventure?

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Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789.



A dog with a job! Nate's rescue, Sol, takes his job of helping children seriously and with a wagging tale!



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National Children's Dental Health Month

Healthy teeth start early

Do you know the most common chronic disease that faces young children today?

It's not asthma or hay fever. It's actually cavities in children's teeth, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Fortunately, this common health problem can be corrected if it's caught early enough and good habits are taught from a young age.

CRITICAL TO HEALTH

For children, cavities are about more than mouth pain. They can distract students from learning or keep them home from school, which can have a big impact on their educational goals. It's tough for a child to "be himself" when he is distracted by tooth pain, after all.

To keep your child's teeth in tip-top shape, experts recommend they see a dentist for a checkup by their first birthday, or shortly after their first teeth appear. That's an early visit — and one too many parents skip — but it can help catch oral health problems quickly and also set the stage for a lifetime of healthy teeth.

GOOD HABITS

One of the most important aspects of good oral health is maintaining good habits, and that's especially true for children.

It's another reason why regular dental visits are so important for young people.

When children go to the dentist, they're not only getting work done on their teeth. They're also learning lessons about oral hygiene that can last a lifetime.

Ideally, you'll want to find a dentist who is good at teaching children how to take care of their teeth properly. If the dentist can make it fun for the child — and show them how important it is to take care of their oral health — they'll be much better off later in life.

After all, the habits they pick up now will likely stick with them for a long time.


BABY TEETH

Some parents may wonder why they need to pay so much attention to their children's baby teeth when they won't last through adulthood anyway. But the truth is that the health of their gums and teeth as children can impact their smile as an adult.

Experts at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry say that baby teeth play three big roles:

- Maintaining good nutrition by permitting your child to chew properly.
- Play a part in speech development.
- Help the permanent teeth by saving space for them.

In the end, having healthy teeth is also an important part of having a healthy body. They will help your child eat right, learn to speak and smile with confidence.



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