



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Sally, a seven-month-old Labradoodle, has an important job! She was trained by her predecessor, Summer, who held the coveted Children's Counselor paws-ition for 10 years.

"Therapy dogs help children by creating a calm, friendly environment where it's easier for clients to open up and talk about their feelings and problems," explained Eve. "Sally is great on the friendly part but gets a little excited when kids arrive for their appointments. She enthusiastically greets them with a wagging tail and an adorable, friendly, fluffy face. She begins treatments by making everyone smile and giving them friendly welcome kisses, so they understand that they are visible and important. The children respond when Sally looks into their faces

with her soft, expressive, brown eyes, and leans into them with her head resting on their legs.

I became a children's counselor after fostering a child suffering from an attachment disorder who desperately needed help, but we couldn't find a good counselor. I eventually found ways to help the little girl become a loving person. Then after my divorce, needing to earn a living and not just train service dogs and rehabilitate ex-race horses, I earned a degree in counseling. My dog, Summer, and I interned together. She was a natural, helping me become a more effective counselor and was my co-therapist for 10 years."

One of Eve's clients, a teen boy, is helping Sally learn her job. He reminds his furry paw-digy to keep her front feet

on the floor and not sit up like a trained bear because that paws-ture might scare small children. Sally loves this young man and during their sessions she lies on his feet.

Another girl sits on the floor with Sally petting and talking to her. Sally relaxes and sprawls on her back with her feet in the air while the girl gently rubs her belly sharing feelings with the two counselors.

Although the pup is calm at work, at home it is another story! The minute Eve opens the door the pup "morphs into a rocket" zooming up to the barn, over to the bird feeder, looks for cats (who are teaching her to be respectful), up the hill, and then down to the driveway. When she gets too far away, Eve calls to her and then Sally upgrades into a missile! Her cinnamon-colored curly hair flies back and her speeding legs blur. Luckily, she has good brakes and hasn't mowed Eve over; but sometimes she runs so fast that when the pup turns she loses the rhythm of her feet and goes sliding along on her side.

"One day when Sally was wearing her waterproof coat, she slipped on the wet grass and instead of sliding, she flipped over," said Eve. "Based on the Olympics, my first thought was, 'Wow! Nice 360!' Sally was unhurt, bounced back on her feet, and zoomed off again.

Recently, one young client asked to take Sally outside for a run. Sally was thrilled when

the child took her leash and ran with her. It was wonderful witnessing their happy faces. Sally's expression clearly said, 'I LOVE my job!'

TIPS
Eve has self-published three children's books on her pets. The educational books are available at the Bookmine and on Amazon. "Summer Finds a Job" is about Summer not becoming a service dog because she lacked confidence and was a little "goofy". Children are encouraged to discover things that they are good at as they read how Summer struggled to find a job she can do.

Her other two books are "Misty Finds Her Courage" about her rescue cat who learns to move past her purr-vious life of fear and learns to enjoy life again. Lastly the novel, "Rick's Hearing Ears" describes a guide dog's progress from a shelter, through his training to become a hearing dog.

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Swinging Bridge

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tion costs and the contingency funds, Stewart said the remainder of the estimate is engineering and design fees.

"We are going to try to do the majority of the design and engineering in-house," he said. "We have two civil engineers who can do a lot of the work."

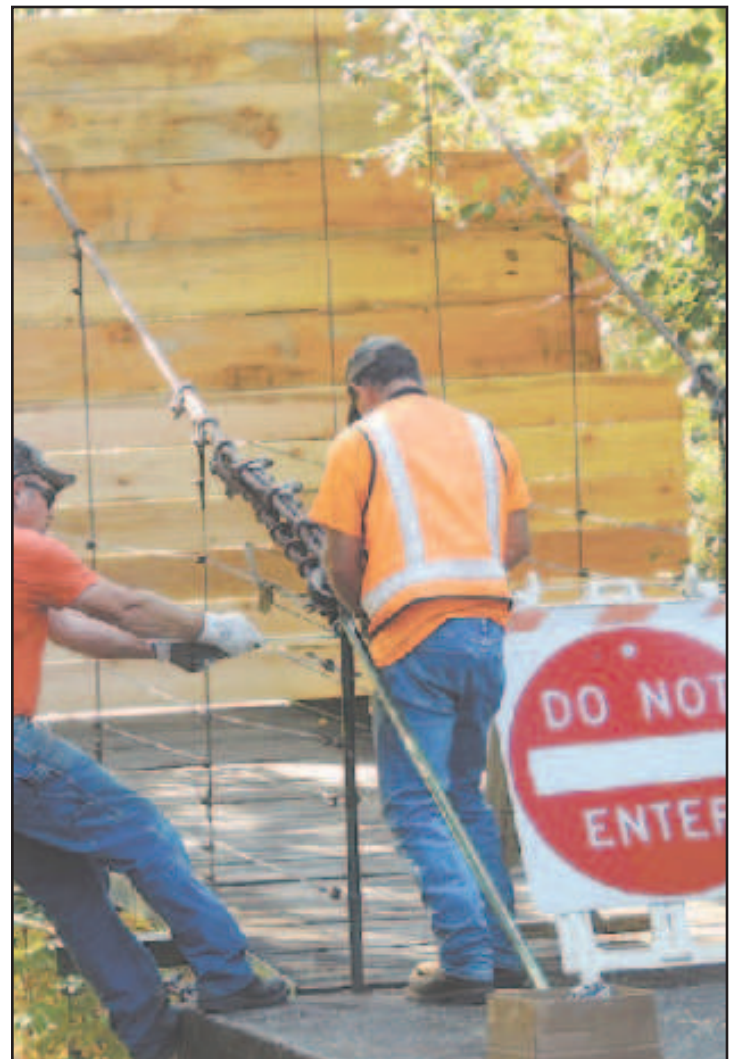
The city is currently applying for three grants which would garner \$350,000 but that money could not be utilized for design or engineering.

"We could come to a place where we get donations of the product," Stewart said, noting that timber or steel companies could donate materials to the bridge repair.

The community has already been doing its part with Friends of the Cottage Grove Swinging Bridge—a group dedicated to raising funds for the bridge's repair—popping up last year. The city also implemented a donation program through its water billing that allows residents to "round-up" and donate the difference between their bill total and the closest dollar amount to the bridge. At last count, the fundraising effort had raised nearly \$3,000.

"It's important that people don't get discouraged and say they haven't raised a lot of money," Stewart said. "Because what they're doing is showing community support and that helps in the grant process."

Friends of the Swinging Bridge are holding a benefit for the bridge on March 24 at the armory beginning at 6 p.m.



A Sentinel file photo shows city crews closing the Swinging Bridge after it was deemed unsafe for crossers.

Florida band heading to Axe & Fiddle

By Caitlyn May
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Michael and Madhava Collins were driving through Houston on Thursday, March 15 with spotty internet service and a schedule. They were on their way to Cottage Grove for a stop on their 40-date tour that will span several states and last more than two months.

But Houston is nearly a country away from where they started.

"I had been doing this underground music thing for about 14 years," Michael said. "I played solo, I played with a band and you know, I met Madhava in Boston."

He had been living in Brooklyn at the time but had traveled to Massachusetts for a show. It would become the launching pad for TIME, an experimental synth-pop duo now based in Florida.

"It took awhile but we realized we have really good musical chemistry together," Michael said.

The two play together now but their partnership started as a unique collaboration. Madhava, who had never composed music, says she began to hear melodies, sing them into her phone and then bring them to Michael.

"We would flesh them out," he said. "That was about two years ago and since then we've been on four tours. We go out for two or three months at a time."

They take inspiration from medieval poets, hymns and prayers as well as the more specific influence of Italian disco and German tunes from 1983.

It will be the duo's first time in Cottage Grove but they say Oregon is on their list of favor-

ite places since touring in Eugene in 2016.

"We love Oregon," Madhava said. "It's beautiful, it's like the polar opposite side of the country from Florida but I was struck because there's green landscape. It reminds me of Florida, of home."

TIME will be performing at the Axe and Fiddle on April 16.

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