



Betty Kaiser

## Betty Kaiser's Chatter Box: Wrapping up 'Snowpocalypse' 2019

house means no heat, water, refrigeration, flushing toilets, cooking facilities, lights, internet, cell or land phones. Monday, we woke up to crashing trees, 15" of wet snow on rooftops and ground. We turned on the generator intermittently to use the water, stovetop or microwave but we were very low on fuel and using it sparingly. Then the Jeep got stuck in the snow trying to get out of the garage.

The next 10 days I put in the ugly category. Thank goodness for a wood stove, a generator and angels of mercy.

Monday morning, we put on our boots and trudged out to the gate in about ¼ mile of deep snow. It doesn't sound like much until you walk it several times in freezing weather. The gate was frozen shut. We needed gas for the generator, but no cars were traveling our roads, and neither were pedestrians. Our ATT cell phones neither received nor sent.

It's scary to be out of contact with everyone.

Chuck is still recovering from two heart surgeries and we needed help. But where would it come from? Miraculously, prayers were answered and miracles happened. Tuesday, our next-door neighbor, Aaron, jumped the fence and forged a path across the acres of deep snow. (He had power lines down across his driveway.) He daily stacked our firewood, shoveled snow, and was our contact with the outside world. His wife, Tan-

ya (home with a toddler and baby) was able to contact our worried out-of-state family. Amazing!

Originally, we only had enough gas to minimally work our generator for one day. It consumes about 5 gallons a day. Every day someone supplied the basics we needed. Many thanks to Steve who lives nearby, neighbors Clint and Donna, friends Sella and Morrie in C.G. for bringing us gas, groceries and more. All were answers to prayer.

Still, we couldn't leave the property. And then the Marines landed! Clint and his monster truck knocked down an opening to the road and flattened our icy driveway. We were finally able to leave our property on Friday, March 1, but didn't have power until 6 p.m. Wed. Mar. 6.

You can be sure that the busy EPUD and Tillamook Electric crews were a welcome sight as they strung wire and installed new poles for three days. I don't know who was happiest to have heat again — us or our dogs Sweetie and Sammy. Thank you!

Now, a word about on-going electrical problems. This was not our first rodeo. At C.G. Lake, Dorena and other outlying areas, we have frequent power interruptions. We understand that we live in heavily wooded, rural areas. Transformers blow up and trees come down on the lines.

But in 30 years, as the population has grown, we have seen little progress or changes

to stop our long-term electric outages.

We have new meters to calculate usage and dedicated workers when something happens. But we also need communication and preventative action. Oregon's electric companies tell us that underground lines are too expensive. Isn't it expensive to keep replacing lines and equipment and pay over-time?

And what about the homeowners? It's more expensive to *not* have electricity than it is to have it. Most households in our area do not have generators. They huddle in front of fireplaces and cook on camp stoves.

Others spend hundreds of dollars on gas for small generators. Some stay in hotels at reduced rates worrying about pets and property. The system needs to be upgraded to the 21st century.

One final good thought. In spite of the inconvenience and frustration, we have much to be grateful for. One only has to read the news about droughts, famines, floods, wars and destruction in other areas of our country and world to know that we get off pretty easy here.

So, I'm sure you will join me in counting our blessings and praying that another snowpocalypse doesn't visit us again any time soon!

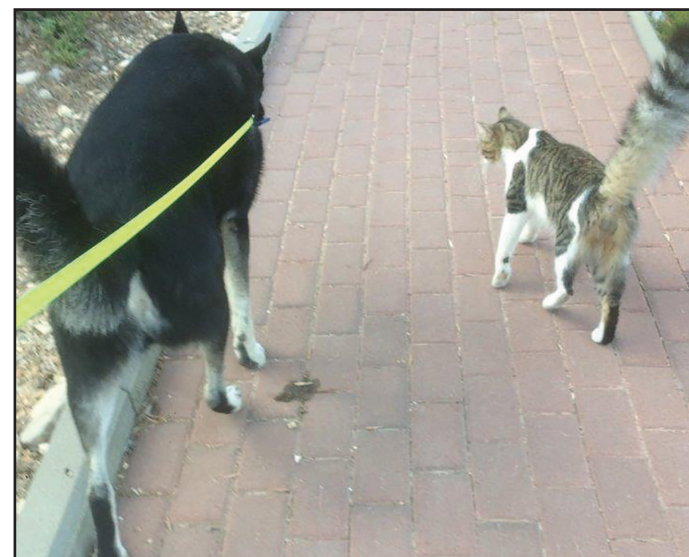
Contact Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox at 942-1317 or email [bcatty@bettykaiser.com](mailto:bcatty@bettykaiser.com)



## Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen  
"Angel Scribe"

### Boodi's Little Brother



Carol was paw-plexed when a feral cat joined her dog, Boodi, in their nightly walk, in Israel!

As promised, Carol and I had another cat-chat from Israel! She Skyped to share how a feral cat she feeds "Adopted me." However, it was really her dog, Boodi, featured in the earlier Tips 'n' Tales article, "The Peace Maker," that the cat fell in love with first. I mean, who doesn't fall for a handsome hero?!

Out of the five feral cats in her neighborhood, for some reason, Boodi immediately treated one, Hamoodi, (which means "cute") like family.

"Seeing these two animals together fills my heart with love," said Carol. "Living in Israel, nine miles from the Lebanese border, makes me wonder why people can't get along. If this cat and dog can bridge their differences and love each other, why can't neighbors?"

Carol left for a two-week trip and guess who was waiting for her on her return? A neighbor had fed the cats in her absence, and as soon as Hamoodi saw her he ran to her.

"The cat is always around when I am outside," said Carol, "But yesterday he did the most surprising thing! He joined Boodi and I on our evening walk! It was funny seeing the two of them walking side by side. Then, this morning, he did it again! This cat warms my heart and puts me in a good mood for hours. He truly makes my day and the best part is that he feels like family."

The dog park is a three-minute walk from their home. Hamoodi has adjusted his schedule to walk with them every day.

Going to the dog park is dangerous. The trio traverses down the main road through town, then has to cross the town's busy Main Street. Hamoodi is a survivor and wisely afraid of vehicles, but this did not stop him from following his newly adopted family.

"The first time the cat followed us, at the park he ran under a bush and hid," said Carol. "I was concerned about the cars and arriving dogs and realized how intelligent the cat was. Then, one and a half hours later, when Boodi and I left the park, the cat was nowhere to be seen. Just as we crossed the busy road, all of a sudden, he was walking next to me. At first, I was so upset when he walked with us, but I could not prevent him from joining us. He was feral. I couldn't catch him or put him in the house. He may be good with traffic, but oddly he is not so clever with sprinklers! When I let him inside, he comes in wet from them."

"We have Russian, Arabic and Jewish neighbors," added Carol. "At the dog park their dogs only speak the language of their family. So Boodi and I are teaching Hamoodi Hebrew as his second language — his first, of course, is 'Meowish.'"

Carol explained how, when she sits on her patio, Hamoodi now jumps up onto her lap for attention. He must be a purr-fessor cat wanting to teach that everyone wants to be part of a family and have someone to love them and be loved by them. "Boodi and I agree," Carol said.

#### Tips:

How does Carol handle all the pet fur on her floor? "I use a robotic vacuum and love it! Also, Boodi is terrified of thunder and he's found relief with HomeoPet's Anxiety TFLN Relief Remedy."

**Note:** Carol is having a group come to trap, neuter, spay and release the feral cats, so that next year her patio does not explode into 40 cute homeless cats. Wise choice!

#### Facts from the Humane Society of the United States:

- Each year 6-8 million cats and dogs enter shelters.
- Three million were euthanized and approximately 2.4 million (80 percent) were healthy and adoptable — but weren't.
- Purebreds in shelters: 25 percent

These are the facts, so neuter and spay your pets. Don't add to society's pet burden or another animal's death. Even if you can find a home for your pet's babies, that means animals in shelters are killed who could have used those home.

Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at [angelscribe@msn.com](mailto:angelscribe@msn.com) or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales](http://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales). Adopt loving pets online at [www.PetFinder.com](http://www.PetFinder.com). For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.

**Happy Birthday**  
**Celebrate Sassy's**  
**15th birthday**

at the  
**This 'n That store,**  
**33 N. 8th St.**  
Cake will be served  
**Fri, March 29**  
**Sat., March 30**  
In lieu of gifts,  
you are welcome  
to donate pet food.

### Indoor succulents, cacti topics of Garden Club meeting Tuesday

Walk into any store lately and you will likely see a small display of succulents and cacti growing in tiny 2-inch pots; nurseries and specialty shops will likely have even more. The variety of whimsical shapes and sizes can make selecting just one a challenge.

Succulents and cacti are attractive to a wide variety of gardeners, from "newbies" who want to try growing for the first time to experienced gardeners who are looking for new ways to add plants to their homes. But once a tiny treasure has been purchased, what is the best way to keep it healthy?

Marcia Peeters from Pierce Street Gardens in Eugene will be joining Cottage Grove Garden Club on Tuesday, April 2, to talk about getting the best out of in-

door succulents and cacti.

Peeters will discuss the differences between cacti and succulents, the basics for growing healthy plants year-round including heat and light requirements, and how much to water and when. She'll also explain how to choose the best pots, what type of soil to use and best practices for combining several plants in a single pot. Peeters will also bring a variety of succulents and cacti that can be purchased after her talk.

Her presentation "Getting the Best out of Indoor Succulents and Cacti" will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 S. Third St. The Garden Club's business meeting begins at 6 p.m. with Peeters beginning at 7 p.m. Guests and visitors welcome.

**6-day**  
weather forecast

<b>THURSDAY</b> 58°   42° Rain	<b>FRIDAY</b> 61°   39° Rain
<b>SATURDAY</b> 64°   43° Partly Cloudy	<b>SUNDAY</b> 62°   46° Rain
<b>MONDAY</b> 58°   46° Rain	<b>TUESDAY</b> 57°   42° Rain

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