

Pet Tips'n' Tales: Mr. Bean's Best Friend Herb



By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

licked his hands.

"Herb had commented that he once had a Bichon Frise who slept on his chest, and being able to see and pet Bean was healing therapy," said Jo. "Herb's wife had passed years before and so had his daughter at age two. In our hearts, we felt that Herb's wife sent us to make Herb feel loved."

Jo and Charlie promised Herb that when he returned to his care home that Mr. Bean would continue visiting. They kept their promise.

Herb loved dogs and was tickled when Mr. Bean jumped up on his bed for a pat and a nap. Their bond was evident, so Jo 'presented' Herb with a photo of his favorite dog and Herb confessed that he kissed the picture every night.

COVID stopped their



COURTESY PHOTO

Mr. Bean honors his friend Herb by attending his funeral.

heartwarming visits, then Herb became ill and the threesome weren't allowed to visit. Even when Herb entered hospice, they were banned from visiting. The

family were heartbroken for Herb's isolation and passing because he was dearly loved.

"It bothered us that Herb died without saying goodbye to his buddy and Charlie's service dog. So we three honored him by attending his funeral," said Jo. "Bean has never been in a church, and was a little angel sitting on the pew between us. When the priest said 'stand' or 'sit', Bean followed the priest's directives."

"We were proud of Mr. Bean. He never made a sound during the service. I felt that Herb would be happy looking down from heaven seeing his best furry friend in attendance. Just then, Bean's eyes

started tracking something invisible. I believe it was Herb's spirit. People attending the mass and the priest came up to us and mentioned Beans good behavior. It was a fitting farewell to his friend Herb."

"Herb was rarely without his Gator baseball hat. The photo above is when he popped it onto Bean's head and the well-worn hat was displayed at his service. Once care homes open to visitors, we plan on taking Mr. Bean to visit residents in Herb's memory of his lifelong love for dogs."

TIPS

"I caught a glimpse of our new rescued Bichon, Gracie, in the bedroom," said Kaye. "She is not yet allowed in that room. My

husband was in the den, so I asked him, 'Why is Gracie in the bedroom?' He said, 'She isn't. She's sitting on my lap.' I looked around the bedroom again, and it was empty. That's when I realized that our Bichon, Daisy, who died two years ago, had come to check on the new dog she chose for us. Animals have souls, and like people, their souls live on after physical death. It is reassuring that they will be waiting for us on the other side. I hope someone finds comfort in reading this."

"Have a plan in place for someone to care for your pets if the worst-case scenario occurs," said Janet Overholser, president of Humane Society of Cottage Grove. "HSCG has been contacted several times to transport homeless pets after a person passes and no one is in the home or can care for the animals left behind. If you had a sudden heart attack, stroke, car accident, COVID or pass, who would look after your pets? Plan before it happens. Place information on your refrigerator 'In Case of Emergency' who to contact. Also include additional information in your will on care of your pet."

We would love to hear about your pet.

Write to angelscribe@msn.com

Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales

ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALWAYS EASIER IN ADVANCE

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Grant funds trail maintenance along Row River Trail

Last week, the City of Cottage Grove received an approved contract from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the grant funding to do trail maintenance along the Row River Trail from the BLM Mosby

Creek Trailhead to end at the Culp Creek Trailhead.

The maintenance work will be performed throughout the year in a partnership with Al Kennedy High School (AKHS), volunteers and city staff.

City staff is meeting with AKHS staff to get started on the maintenance work.

They will be working on eradicating invasive species and work in areas that can't be maintained with mechanical equipment.

Stay In Control on Memorial Day

As we look forward to an extended holiday weekend, our area merchants encourage you to celebrate responsibly – for your own safety and the safety of our entire community. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics, Memorial Day weekend ranks second only to New Years in percentage of alcohol-related traffic deaths. Whether you're driving a car or a boat, it's important to remember that alcohol impairs your judgement and slows reaction time. You can help prevent drunk driving tragedies this holiday weekend and year-round by staying sober behind the wheel and keeping friends from drinking and driving.

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