

ANIMAL HOSPITAL NEWS

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The Crazy Season

My name is Jack. I have to tell you that my family thinks I am crazy. I am not on drugs or anything like that, but I just love life so much that sometimes I can not control my excitement for even the little things of life. Take treats for instance. My people try to get me to sit, or roll over, or stay, but they just don't know how *blessed delicious* those little morsels are! I have never seen them try one. If they only knew. I guess that I would say I get excited about almost any food though. Last week my family had this special meal. It was more like a feast really, and everyone was home. The smells were so good, that I had to try to see if I could sneak some of the tasty food from the table. With everyone talking, no one was really paying me any mind, and I was focused on this huge platter with this strange shaped aroma generator on top of it. I had overheard everyone com-



menting on it, asking if the "bird" was done yet, or "Boy, the bird looks delicious." It didn't look like any birds that I have seen before though. I mean it was way bigger, and there were no feathers, no beak, no feet, shoot I couldn't even tell where the bird's head was, but it did smell fantastic. My mouth was on full drool as I took in the sight of it. I barely had time to consider how my family had captured it. I generally pride myself on being the fastest one in our family, I mean, when I run, I can leave everyone in the dust. It's not even close, but even I have

never caught a bird in the yard before. They always fly away, even if I sneak my best sneak up on them. The neighbor's cat however, is able to catch them. Lousy show-off, cat. But now, I could smell the attraction of birds. I believed that it would be a huge improvement over the dry cereal I had in my bowl. I almost slipped in my own drool as I inched ever closer, expecting that I would draw some attention if I moved too quickly to sample. Now right in front of the counter where the bird sat, I could see the heat rising off



the platter and feel it on my face as I leaned in closer. I decided that if it was too hot I should just test touch it with my tongue to see if it would be okay to bite. O...M...G. I

think I just tasted heaven. This featherless bird didn't squawk or otherwise make a sound to alert the people to my position half up on the counter. "Playing possum is your game eh bird?" I thought to myself, "Well, that only works with bears from all I know, and I'm no bear. Heh, heh, heh. Well at least I don't think I am, I mean I've never actually seen a bear, but...Oh shut up brain - you're blowing this for us! Someone is going to notice you if you don't move your tail!" I quickly scanned the room - nope, still no one watching, but the clatter coming from the kitchen left little doubt that seconds were all I had left to make with the yummy get-away! I sank my teeth into the bird and pulled it off the platter and whoa! It was a lot heavier than I anticipated and flung free from my bite grip and slid across the floor, the platter also announced to everyone that something was amiss as it hit the hardwood

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Service to Others, Service to All

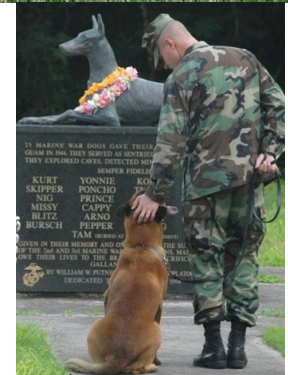
Story Contributed by Kathryn Christensen

The Holidays are a time to count our blessings, give thanks to friends, family and all of our loved ones. For many of us, our pets are our “babies”, they are our family and without them, life would be boring and incomplete. Our pets are our companions, they help us when we are sad, and they manage to bring great happiness into our lives.

Besides that support role our pets provide our families, many of our beloved pets also take on the task and responsibility of protecting their human family. Whether it is by issuing a warning and barking at possible intruders at the door, chasing away other animals from our properties (even alligators if you're in Florida), or just always putting themselves in front when danger is around, our beloved animals give their utmost to sacrifice for us, to love and protect us no matter the cost. Protecting the human family comes very naturally to many family pets,

but sometimes it is actually not just a choice but a duty. On October 22, of this year Hurricane, a black Belgian Malinois, and Jordan, a black and tan Belgian Malinois, took their duty to protect very seriously. Hurricane and Jordan are part of the Secret Service K-9 Unit. They are specially trained to protect the President of the United States and stop any intruders who attempt to reach the White House. According to the New York Times, on that Wednesday October night at approximately 7:15 PM, the dogs preformed their duties “flawlessly”. According to the story a man, Dominic Adesanya, managed to jump the White House fences and reached the lawn, where he was quickly taken down and subdued by both of the dogs. After the ordeal, they were taken to a veterinary hospital, but thankfully the canine heroes only sustained minor injuries. To thank them for their service, they were given the next day off.

(Chew on a bad guy — check! Save the President — check! It's really nothing. All in a day's work. Whoa! And get one whole day off too!!!)



Employees of the Month

Congratulations go out to two of our newest employees, (if one year with the practice is considered new), Dr. James DeGraaff as he earned recognition as our October Employee of the Month, and to Takeisha Hoggard as our November Employee of the Month. Dr. DeGraaff and Takeisha both joined us in October of 2013. Dr. DeGraaff, his wife and newborn daughter reside in Denver with their cat Ginger. He has been

instrumental in improving our dental services. Takeisha works in our veterinary technician department and supports our doctors and practice with great compassion. Her co-workers praise her positive attitude and sense of humor. She and Dr. DeGraaff have proved positive additions to the Animal Hospital of Cornelius team of professionals. Congratulations and thanks to you to both!



Dog Takes Taste of Heaven, Cat Takes Blame

floor. I knew trouble was imminent! Big Trouble! Voices were quickly coming closer from adjacent rooms! My mind screamed "Run you fool!" I tried, but I was just spinning my wheels as I floored the accelerator! I was slowly digging in (although my feet were running a million miles an hour) as the door from the kitchen began to swing open. And just as the hinges opened the room to the prosecution, I exited the dining room opening into the foyer, across the foyer and down the hall to the back of rooms at rocket ship speed! I could not yet tell if I had been seen, or heard for that matter, as I dove into my bed shaking with fear for the trouble that I knew was coming. What seemed like a minute passed...."Strange." I thought, "Usually trouble comes much faster when I have broken something with my tail or by chasing the cat, or when I get into mud outside and then bring it inside. Or the time that I chased the possum into the crawl space under the house, or the time I rolled on the dead skunk and smelled for a week like a dead skunk. Or that

time...Shut up Brain! Why is no one coming to yell at me yet?!" Curious, I rose from my bed, and walked back up the hallway to hear my family speaking loudly about the cat in a most negative way. "What? They think the cat did it? Oh my!" Now I heard them saying that they had caught her red handed! I smiled, my guilt that had been written all over my face was washed away and I was using my old pal Sasha as the face towel. Oh how sweet this was. I mean not as sweet as the taste I almost had of that succulent delicious golden brown feast. But it was a close second. I mean I can count on one paw the times that I had gotten the cat in trouble, but she had me in it on a regular if not weekly/daily basis. (I have trouble with time by the way).

Sasha apparently had been the room the whole time, and probably saw me in all my focused attempt at the bird. I overheard my family talking about keeping her jailed in the back pantry with just her litter box and some dry cereal for the remainder of the day for ruining the dinner - "Awesome! It's only mid-

afternoon!" I thought. I came in the dining room casually, not trying to arouse suspicion that I knew anything about anything. It was about the most difficult act I had ever performed, but I pulled it off. The only attention I received were scratches behind my ears like I like, and the underside of my chin of course, and of all things...praise. For just being a good boy. This was almost the best day (the best day would have included me getting more than just a lick on that bird - that and the cat still being blamed. The cat - oh yeah! Let's go see how poor old Sasha is making out back in the laundry room. HA HA HA! I went through the kitchen toward the back door and entry from the garage to the door to the laundry room which was closed tightly. I put my nose to the space at the bottom of the door and gave a couple of snorts to let Sasha know I was there. "You in there cat?" I asked

rhetorically. "Yessss!" was hissed back by an obviously upset feline. "We'll have a reckoning when I get out of here." Sasha growled under the door. "Well, you may have to wait quite a while on that old girl, I mean destroying dinner was a big mistake you know, the family is pretty upset about that bird being knocked to the floor." I explained. "You know very well it was **your** epic failure you filthy swine. And it will be your last mistake dog. Just wait until I am free, just you wait." Sasha's claw flailed under the door trying to take a swipe at



me. "Yes, I'll wait, but in the living room, with everyone else, near the warm fire. I'll probably get some treats, or maybe a bone for being such a good pet, not like some pets we know. Enjoy your solitary, convict." I left the cat to stew on that. Ah, I just love the crazy holiday season!

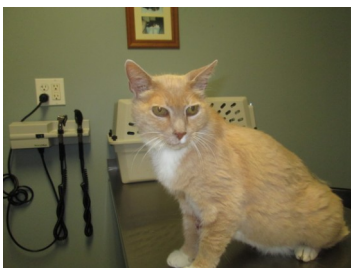


A NEW YEAR BECKONS.....

"The Animal Hospital of Cornelius would like to wish all of our friends and their wonderful furry family a safe and most joyous Christmas and Holiday Season!" We are thankful and humbled to be able to serve by performing jobs that we love. We are appreciative for the trust you place in us by bringing your pets here for their care. We promise to continue to raise the level of service each

time you visit, from our customer service, to the continual pursuit of the most proven medical treatment methods available, to the tender care of each boarding stay. We hold ourselves accountable in each opportunity to serve. Each case is different and unique, and each day offers the chance to learn something new and to be great. We do our best, because your pets deserve

no less than that. They are important to us. We advocate for all animals, it is our passion and our calling. We enjoy the relationship we have with our clients, and respect your family bond with your pets. We are here to help that last and grow stronger. Thank you for the great year in 2014 and we look forward to meeting the challenges and excitement of a new year just around the corner."
~ Dr. G. Wayne Jones



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