Lizzy Talk®

A Newsletter From Lizzy

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Bobbie, The Wonder Dog

When we experience a “feel good” story like this one we want to share. In search of a fresh and uplifting narrative, some of our members traveled to Oregon on a mission. The draw? The 100th anniversary of “Bobbie, the Wonder Dog”.

The seemingly unbelievable story of Bobbie drew us in focusing our attention on the little town of Silverton, Oregon. Roughly an hour’s drive south of Portland, this oasis is a mecca of beauty. Winding roads meandering through the forested foothills dotted with vineyards makes the drive from Portland to Silverton truly spectacular. Very self-contained, the town of 10,300 residents offers every type of service necessary for everyday living. It boasts of having a total of three stoplights and a downtown full of wonderful shops and restaurants. Silverton is known for its incredible display of artwork spearheaded by the Mural Society. Murals appear everywhere within the town. They commemorate significant historical events meaningful to the community’s families. Remembering notable community members is a point of pride. Bobbie is one of those community members and is not forgotten. Bobbie has a huge mural dedicated to his legacy, entitled *Bobbie the Wonder Dog*, located next to his former owner’s restaurant. Another mural depicting a parade is entitled *Silverton Pet Parade* and features Bobbie, leading the way. It’s apparent Bobbie is an important character in Silverton’s past. Bobbie’s family, originally from a rural area were the Braziers. The Braziers opened a restaurant in town and lived there with their two daughters and their beloved “Bobbie”, a uniquely marked Scotch collie dog with a bobbed tail. His wide white blaze, ruff, and socks; a very handsome dog.



In August of 1923, the Braziers decided to undertake a long and arduous journey via automobile to Walcott Indiana to visit family. The roads were not the paved roads we enjoy today. Travel in those days was not without difficulty as roads were often treacherous. Bobbie was a member of their family so they took him along. Bobbie’s family arrived safely. Little did Bobbie know, his dangerous journey was about to begin. Bobbie, outnumbered and attacked by a pack of local dogs, panicked and ran off. The Brazier family desperately tried to find Bobbie and extended their stay to find him. Finally, after searching without any luck, they sadly gave up hope and returned to Silverton. They left a description of Bobbie with their contact information at every campsite where they had stayed along the way. The family was devastated. What happened, almost six months to the day Bobbie had gone missing, is an amazing tale. In February 1924, an injured, extremely thin, matted dog, with cracked paw pads and bleeding feet was spotted by one of the Brazier daughters limping toward her. She could not believe her eyes - her sweet Bobbie had found his way home. This family celebrated the return of their faithful friend and the entire town rejoiced at the news of their good fortune. Talk about the original Lassie Come Home Story! Although these were the days long before the internet or social media, news of

Bobbie's story spread like wildfire. The local newspaper published the story of his miraculous and wonderful feat. Soon national magazines and newspapers covered the story. Accounts of Bobbie's travels, covering over 2,500 miles, spread nationwide. Confirmed sightings of this uniquely marked dog were verified and substantiated. Bobbie became a celebrity and received hundreds of letters from famous organizations such as the National Geographic Society and author, Albert Payson Terhune. Letters from those who had contact with the dog on his journey between Indiana and Oregon, allowed the newspaper to track Bobbie's return trip. It is a wonder he managed to cross mountain ranges and major rivers in the middle of winter. People traveled to Silverton just to meet this marvel of a dog who had traveled such a great distance and faced such peril to make his way home to his beloved family. *Ripley's Believe It or Not* publicized his travels. In 1924, a silent movie, *The Call of the West*, was made chronicling Bobbie's amazing trip starring the amazing dog himself. Sadly, Bobbie passed away in 1927. Fondly remembered today as Silverton's *Bobbie the Wonder Dog,* he was laid to rest with honors in a dignified gravesite on the grounds of the Oregon Pet Shelter in Portland, where his legacy of loving dedication to family lives on.



In death, Bobbie's spirit lives on in his family's hometown. Each year, the town's community comes together to honor their beloved pets with an annual parade on the third Saturday in May. Sponsored by the local Kiwanis, the event is a heartwarming tribute to a fondly remembered hometown dog. Simply designated as "Pet Parade" on families' yearly calendars is a traditional call to gather. Hundreds of families proudly show off their beloved pets whether dogs, cats, rabbits, llamas, iguanas, guinea pigs, horses, or chickens. From Sapphire the pullet to Toby the pony, every pet is celebrated. No matter the species, their families love them. It seems every organization and local business is represented. From the fire department's truck that starts the parade, to the police officer on motorcycle, signaling the grand finale, everyone is welcome to join in the fun. School Bands, Churches, Clubs, and of course, humane organizations are represented. Children watching the parade sit on the curbs anxiously grabbing candy thrown their way while adults keep a close eye. The parade, a celebration of American families and our common love for our pets, reminds us of all of what is good and wholesome in our shared America. It is meaningful and impressive when one thinks about how this annual event was inspired by one family dog. Bobbie reminds us that the love of our family, whether human or animal, is most important no matter the hardships that may be faced. Our pets, who become members of our families, create a bond with us that is unwavering and an unbreakable love that is unconditional. This year was the 100th Anniversary of Bobbie's journey home. Next year will be the 100th year of Bobbie's return.





"No matter the odds or hardships, when you feel abandoned or all alone, love and loyalty will always guide you home." Bobbie certainly proved this quote.

You can view a news story about the parade at the following You Tube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbK0PeOWh7w

Old Dog, New Tricks

There is a saying, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks”. This is an interesting concept but not true. Old dogs have better concentration and attention abilities. While puppies can be high-strung, nervous, or excitable, your senior buddy is a perfect training partner.

Whether a lifelong companion or a newly adopted senior, your dog is probably a perfect candidate for training. Not only do they get to spend quality time with their humans; they usually get lots of treats! There is no such thing as a dog too old to train and with reward based training methods; you can really enrich their life.



Per the *Best Behaviour Dog Training* company in the UK:

Dog training has lots of benefits for older dogs

- Prevents bad habits forming
- Corrects behaviors that might have arisen from life experiences such as scares
- Helps keep their brain busy when they start to find physical activity more taxing
- Kind to aging joints
- Teaches you and your pet to communicate when hearing and eyesight starts to fail
- Builds an enduring bond
- Creates wonderful memories of your special canine companion
- That period of close observation will give you an opportunity to spot subtle changes in health that might need veterinary attention.

Training makes life better for older dogs AND their owners

So get up off the couch, grab that leash, and build that bond with your senior! You will *both* benefit from it!

A.D.O.P.T. Shelter Low Cost Clinic

We are happy to announce that Lizzy’s Fund® has partnered with A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter in Naperville with the opening of their Low Cost Clinic.

This clinic offers lost cost surgical and medical services to other shelters, rescues and other private individuals. These services consist of, but are not limited to, spay/neuters, dentals and extractions, tumor and lump removals, and other important surgeries to animals. Having these services available at a reasonable cost helps organizations and individuals who otherwise might not be able to afford to care for their animals. Lizzy’s Fund® is honored to offer financial assistance to shelters and rescues that bring in senior dogs. As these organizations are approved, Lizzy’s Fund® steps in and pays for approved services which results in a no cost service to these organizations. We are proud to be part of A.D.O.P.T.’s clinic services and congratulate them on this wonderful venture!



Brody Memorial Fund Drive Underway!

Brody was a rough coated collie who lived a meaningful life. After many years of neglect, he fortunately became a beloved family member. Until he passed on July 1, 2021, Brody paid it forward each and every day performing his duties as a wonderful therapy dog. Whether visiting seniors in nursing homes or the youngest children in classrooms he always showed his charming and gentle collie personality. On the day Brody passed, the Brody Memorial Fund was launched and became a restricted fund within Lizzy's Fund®. This fund is used specifically for assisting senior collies. One of the programs within Lizzy's Fund® is *Lizzy Care*, which supports dogs placed in hospice care.

As we remember the two-year anniversary of Brody's passing, we remember the lasting effect that Brody had on all persons and animals that he met. Brody was an extraordinary therapy and family dog, which is remarkable considering the circumstances of how he came to his family after being discarded by his previous owners. Brody touched the hearts of many people. He visited schools and nursing homes, spreading love and joy to all that he met. When Brody passed a restricted fund named the *Brody Memorial Fund*, was set up in his honor within Lizzy's Fund®, to care for senior collies only. This fund created an incredible legacy to this "throw away dog" and during the past two years has paid for extensive medical care for over a dozen collies with dire conditions. **We are pleased to announce that until August 15, any donations made to Lizzy's Fund®, with the request that they be for *Brody's Fund*, will be 100% matched.** What an amazing tribute to this amazing collie!







Lizzy's Fund® is an IRS approved not-for-profit charity that provides financial support to senior canines, aged 7 and older.

Donations are gratefully accepted, please consider helping a senior dog today!
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