

*Happy Valentine's Day*



### **OurDogHouse Parade of Pups**

For those of you who may have missed our January issue, we announced our Valentine parade of pups! Each day through February 14th, we'll have a new breed on display on our [homepage](#). Be sure to check it out!

### **Spay Day USA**

February 24th marks the 15th annual Spay Day USA. This annual campaign helps save animals' lives by encouraging people to spay or neuter their pets. For more information please visit [HSUS](#)

### **Feature Design**

Have you been pawing around for a unique gift for that special someone? Check out this month's featured design: Dogs Leave Paw Prints on Your Heart. This saying is also available as Grand-Dogs Leave Paw Prints On Your Heart, which makes a wonderful gift for grandparents. We also have many other designs, with or without hearts, that make wonderful Valentine's Day gifts. We have 39 breeds available. If we don't have yours, please let us know and we'll be happy to create a custom product for you. [Click here](#) to go to OurDogHouse online store



### **"Cupet"**

#### **Fetching Mr. or Ms. Right**

**By Timothy Glass © Copyright 2009 OurDogHouse**

Dogs enrich our lives in many ways. They can have a positive effect on the elderly and hospitalized patients of all ages. No matter what type of day a person is having, dogs provide unconditional love to their human companions.

Nonetheless, can your pooch fetch you Mr. or Ms. Right? Dogs have an extremely keen sense of what people are all about. They seem to be able to cut through all the gibberish and pick-up lines, and go straight for what matters most. Who really is this person?

When I set out to do this article, I dug around the world to find the answer. While there was not nearly enough room in an article of this size to include them all, here is a sampling of the stories I found out there. Let's dig through and see if your pup can lend a paw in the dating game.

### **Maggie Never Was a Party Animal**

I interviewed one gentleman named Winston who is a university professor. Winston was invited to a party where the host's pup, Maggie, managed to pick him out of the partygoers. Maggie was never a true party animal in any sense of the word. She would become overwhelmed by all the human activity in the house

and roam from room to room in search of a quiet place. Nonetheless, she would never truly settle down until the gathering was over.

When Winston arrived at the party that evening, he sat down and Maggie jumped into his lap. She appeared to be quite content that she had found someone she could trust. When the party hostess noticed Maggie curled up in Professor Winston's lap, she realized that Maggie had made her choice-for both of them! The professor's marriage is still going strong 20 years later.

### **Love in the Soap Suds**

While getting ready for a trip to a friend's house for Thanksgiving, Miriam found that on the eve of the holiday, her pup-as well as her roommate's dog-were in need of a bath. Following a friendly call to the local dog wash, the owner agreed to stay open late that Thanksgiving eve. After Miriam washed her dog, Ben, she noticed the man at the dog wash. While she admitted to me that he was not the typical type of guy she usually went for, for some reason she found herself attracted to him.

On the Saturday that followed their first meeting, she and Ben went back to the dog wash. After talking about things like hiking and architecture, they found that they had a lot in common. Nevertheless, Miriam had one worry; she admitted to me that he kept saying "we." When he asked Miriam if she and Ben would like to join them on their hike, she inquired about his use of the word we. He smiled, and said the "we" is my dog, Katie, and me. They have been together for eight-and-a-half years now and run several dog-related businesses together.

### **Did the Dog Do It?**

Mary had one obsession in life: her love for her dog. Friends and family knew that in talking with her, her puppy was bound to be a part of every conversation. One day she took her pup to a dog park, where they inadvertently met up with another dog lover whose well-behaved dog caught her eye. While her dog was running all over the dog park, this man's dog stayed right by his side. She was amazed by the dog's good behavior.

She remembers thinking to herself at the time that there must be something special about him since his dog was so loyal and devoted to him. Many dates later, while they reminisced about their first meeting, he admitted to having a heart-to-heart with Fido that day before setting out for the dog park. He told Fido "no growling, no barking, and just be good today." While Mary found her Mr. Right, he has often asked if she would have ever dated him if he didn't have a dog. She just answers him with a smile.

### **Best Pick-up Line**

Everyone who has ever been on the dating scene has heard a multitude of pick-up lines. However, when a man invited Deanna inside so he could show her his "Seven-Generation-Purple-Ribbon-Winning American Eskimos Spitz," she told him that he was quite original. Despite the line, she accepted his offer. As it

turned out, this was no pick-up line at all! They went shopping for wedding rings three days later. Deanna and her husband have been married for 12 years and have three boys.

### **Rambo Gets the Girl!**

Sarah was terrified of dogs and had never even petted one before she met Mike and his dog, Rambo. After they had a few dates, Mike invited her over to his place. After all, Mike and Rambo were a package deal. Admittedly, the name Rambo most likely conjures up an image of a very large canine for most of us. Even though Rambo, in this case, was only a 10-pound Pomeranian, Sarah was very apprehensive about meeting the dog. Mike warned Sarah that his little fur ball had a habit of greeting new guests with a deep, ferocious sounding bark before allowing them to enter. Needless to say, that did little to allay her fears.

When Sarah arrived, Rambo ran towards her then stopped dead in his tracks. Something was different about this visitor, or maybe Rambo had the same reaction to Sarah that Mike did-love at first sight! In either case, he didn't make a sound. He remained quiet, and when she sat down on the couch, he sat a short distance away on the floor and smiled at her. After a few minutes, Mike and Sarah noticed the dog slowly inching closer to her. He sniffed her leg gently, and then ever so lightly rubbed his head against it. Setting her fears aside, Sarah reached down and rubbed the top of Rambo's head with one finger. She was petting a dog for the first time in her life.

An hour later, Rambo was on Sarah's lap, her years of dog-o-phobia erased by a furry little charmer. Mike reports that he had to evict the dog from the couch so he and Sarah could share their first kiss. However, it was worth it. Mike and Sarah have been married almost two years, and Rambo made it possible.

*Author's note: Rambo really does smile, I saw his photo.*

### **The Case of the Missing Dog**

While out for a walk on a beach near the Golden Gate Bridge, Krista and her dog, Abbey, happened to meet another dog lover. Jon was out walking his dog, Jake. The two struck up a conversation. While Krista and Jon were chatting, Jake managed to wander off.

Krista felt badly about leaving Jon while Jake was missing. She decided to stay and they walked the beach together looking for his dog. Ten minutes later, they found Jake on the sidewalk looking for them. One will never know for sure if those extra minutes made a difference, but the four of them are still together two years later.

### **Cuteness Counts**

Three years ago, a personals ad caught Eric's attention. He had no idea if the woman was a dog person or not, but he decided to respond with a picture of his dog, Cody. Apparently Cody worked his magic, as she and Eric married last April.

In conclusion, there are many examples where it seems that pets have played a vital role in getting humans together. Nonetheless, I think the key here is to be open to the possibility. In most cases, dogs were a common interest that two people had between them, which may have facilitated bringing them together. In other cases, it wasn't quite that simple. In my own case, I met my wife, Cathy, through our love for our dogs and this was no easy courtship. There were almost two thousand miles between us. I truly feel that if it had not been for the doggie interaction, there is no way we would have ever met! We have been together for 10 years, married for eight and are still ruled by our dogs!

So, with Valentine's Day upon us, listen to the messages your pups are sending you and they will fetch you the Mr. or Ms. Right that you've been looking for!

*Timothy Glass is the author of [Just This Side of Heaven](#)*

### **Something to Smile About** **© Copyright 2009 OurDogHouse**

February is National Pet Dental Health Month. We all know the importance of maintaining healthy teeth and gums for ourselves as well as our pets. However, here are some fun facts about your dog's teeth that you may not know.

Adult dogs have a total of 42 of them, consisting of four different types. These include incisors, canines, premolars, and molars. The large canines attract the most attention. These fang-like teeth are so popular that even in other species, cats and humans for example, they are referred to as canines.

Puppies start out with 28 teeth and lack molars, since they typically do not have to grind food. At around four months of age, the adult teeth start pushing the baby teeth out. The incisors fall out first, then the canines at about six months, followed by the premolars. All that puppy chewing helps the process and eases the discomfort of teething.

When you wonder why dogs are such versatile eaters of almost anything-edible or not-it's by virtue of their teeth.

### **Until We Bark Again**

**Happy Valentine's Day to all of our two and four-legged friends!**

For those of you who are new subscribers to our newsletter, we welcome you! Thank you to those of you who follow us on Twitter: we're glad to have you following our paw prints. To our long-time readers, we thank you for your continuing support! We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter and we welcome you to forward this issue to anyone else who might also enjoy it. If you have suggestions for future stories, we'd love to hear them! Please feel free to email your comments and suggestions to [OurDogHouse](#)