



PawPrints by Gilmore



Salutations! This is Gilmore. I was requested to write a column for News from the Haven from my perspective (which is from under the table). While it may seem unusual to you for a dog to write a column, my good friend, Hank the Cowdog, has brought home the bacon by writing books, so I am not the first in literary ventures.

Truthfully, I am not at all interested in writing a column. I already have too many other pet projects to keep an eye on (such as popcorn bags and people's lunches).

But Rick insists and, when the boss lays down the law, I have to obey. That's what I learned when Dixie and I went to obedience training classes. Besides he might punish me by not meting out any more funds for baby carrots (one of my favorite treats!)

So once in a while, you'll see my PawPrints on these pages. If you have advice or a suggestion for my column, you can give it to Sally or Rick and they'll discuss it with me.

By the way, take a peek at the front cover of this newsletter. It's all about dogs. Now that's what I like to see! I don't mind if other dogs come to visit as long as I'm still TOP DOG around here. 'Till next time —Gilmore



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Well, we're officially into the 'Dog Days' of summer. I know this because Dining Services had HOT DOGS and baked beans on the menu today. And the last few days have been so hot and humid that all of us just feel like lying around in the shade.

While lying around, I've had my ear to the ground a lot so I've heard rumors that some employees are envious of me. I'm the only one who can actually lie down on the job!

You see, my primary job here is to bring people joy. And I can make a whole lot of them smile just by lying in the middle of the floor and snoring. In fact, there's a great photo of me sleeping with my head on Ralph Harms' lap, which you'll be able to view on our website soon. So, if I can delight people by sleeping on their laps, why bother learning new tricks?

I'll leave you with this quote: "The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."
--Anonymous 'Till next time —Gilmore



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Have you met our new neighbor, Pedro, the cockatiel? If you come into the front living room, you'll usually see (or hear) him there.

I was a little suspicious of him at first because I thought he acted like a birdbrain. But I've been watching him and he seems to be a good egg after all.

Pedro sometimes mimics the noises that he hears around here, which can be annoying. And he's rather vain because he calls himself "pretty bird" a lot.

During the evening musical programs, he often tries to sing along, but, believe me, his voice doesn't harmonize! He'll need some music lessons before he can yodel with Herb Bachtold or sing with the youth group.

Speaking of lessons, I did hear that they are trying to teach Pedro to talk. Pedro's Language Lesson is posted on the side of his cage and, if everyone says the same words to him, eventually he will learn them. After he learns more English, I think I will teach him to bark.

'Till next time —Gilmore



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As Rick wrote in his column, there are some delicious scents around here lately. He said that the aroma of cookies baking makes people hungry. My sense of smell is ONE-THOUSAND times more sensitive than a human's. Just imagine how I suffer when the cookies are baking or the buttery popcorn is popping!

If you see me looking at you hungrily, you might feel compelled to share your food with me. I've practiced a long time on the beseeching look in my eyes and I'm proud to say it is often effective!

And there are so many kind people here who want to give me treats. It would be very impolite of me to refuse them, don't you think? So I don't. And then we are both happy: the kind person(s) and me!

However, it has been discovered (by tragic experience!) that if I eat snacks (other than approved ones), my digestive system ... malfunctions. I really don't intend to make a mess—it just HAPPENS! And then I am IN THE DOG-HOUSE!

I went to the vet about this problem and she gave me strict orders—NO MORE BETWEEN-MEAL SNACKS!

Now it's really, really hard for me to politely refuse when you offer me a snack. So you would make my life a LOT easier if you would not tempt me. (Even if I can't help begging!) Please help me stay OUT of the doghouse!

'Till next time —Gilmore



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Would you like to hear one of my pet peeves?

Sometimes I hear certain people saying, "dumb dog!" At first, I thought they were talking about someone else. But finally I realized they were talking about ME! Unbelievable! It really hurts my feelings!

I guess those people don't know that cocker spaniels are documented among the top 20 most intelligent dog breeds. (And black cocker spaniels are the most handsome. But that may be a matter of opinion.)

Those people also must not know about some of the amazing things I've done. Like once when I led a rescue effort. It was late at night when my keen ears heard a cry of distress from one of my friends who had fallen. I barked and barked to inform the nurses. At first, they didn't believe me and told me to be quiet. I kept trying to tell them, until finally they listened to me and went to find my friend on the floor. I was a hero!

I could tell you more stories, but I know Rick will say: "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." (Prov. 27:2)

So, for more details, you will have to read my autobiography (after I write it). 😊

'Till next time —Gilmore



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I am so excited! I received my very first piece of fan mail! I think I can now declare myself to be an acclaimed author! 😊

Here's my letter from some fans in Cissna Park:

"Dear Gilmore— We love your articles in the Newsletter. You have charmed us every time we've seen you and we encourage you to keep up the good work. And keep writing those articles. We look forward to them. Love, Wes and Lisa"

I was so surprised by this that I got a bad case of writer's block! 😊 'Till next time —Gilmore



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If you've visited here lately, you might think you need your eyes tested. But no — you're not seeing double — there actually are TWO grey birds with orange cheeks living here!

'Tails' came to live here because his family couldn't keep him anymore (just the same as I did). He's staying in the family/activity room now. I never knew the theme song to 'Woody Woodpecker' before, but I have learned it because Tails whistles the song. I've tried to tell him he's a cockatiel and not a woodpecker, but still he pecks at his mirror.

Of course, Pedro still lives in the living room. Sometimes when it gets quiet here, the two of them talk (or squawk) to each other. I'm glad I have fluffy paws to cover my ears! 😊

I've heard that confession is good for the soul—so I have to confess that I was not on my best behavior recently. I snapped at a staff member when she got between me and some food. I was sorry about it later, but don't know the best way to apologize. Flowers? Hand-licking? Relationships can be so complicated.

Anyway, I can't promise I'll never do that again because we dogs just have these basic instincts. So please be cautious — and kind, especially when I am near food. I think my veterinarian is coming in soon to give staff some tips and help them understand me better. 'Till next time —Gilmore