



Puppy Tails

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It was a good thing that Doodle Dog had the chance to catch a nap and just relax on the porch for a bit because today there would be more walking for the little floppy-eared puppy to do. A lot more walking! Doodle Dog knew he had to sneak in those dognaps wherever and whenever he could, since this busy puppy's to do list is never done! At least his list of adventures is a fun one and, refreshed from his rest, Doodle Dog was ready to walk, scamper, dash, dart and bounce his way through town yet again. He bounded down off the porch so fast he completely missed the stoop, plopping onto the sidewalk with all four paws eager to take him wherever he wanted to go. As ready as his paws were to get going, however, there was one task he had left to do before he could be on his way.

The floppy-eared puppy peered around the corner of the porch to where his own little wagon lived. He knew wagons help carry many different things, like books to the beach or pretty pumpkins to put on porches. Today would be another wonderful chance for the wagon to provide a helping wheel with the curious little puppy and his work! This week Doodle Dog's human helped him make a big batch of those biscuits he learned how to mix at the barkery not too long ago. Now, wrapped up in cellophane bags that sparkled in the light and wrapped with pretty ribbons tied just right, the treats were a perfect present for all his four-legged friends! Glistening in the friendly rays of sun shining down on the town, the packages already placed in the wagon, ready and waiting to spread holiday cheer, beckoned Doodle Dog to take them along on his walk. Without being asked twice, the little floppy-eared puppy ambled onto the sidewalk, the little wagon overflowing with presents towed behind him. As he pattered from one walkway square to the next, his wagon companion gently bumping along too, Doodle Dog peered up at the streetlamp posts lining the paths through the neighborhood. Each one stood straight and tall, reaching to the sky, and each one glittered with a shining strand of evergreen garland wrapped around and around and around its metal pole of a trunk, and each one was crowned with a gleaming bulb on the very top doing its part to light the way for even a tiny portion of the trail. It was almost as though they were a line of very skinny Christmas trees!

Doodle Dog carefully wove through the sort-of-trees, taking delicate steps to make sure his cargo wouldn't shift too much as the teeny tires did their best to hop over the cracks and pebbles and a few stray strands of browned grass blown by the last wave of autumn winds. As the breeze was long gone, a smattering of leaves and lawn clippings still refused to give in to winter's arrival, now catching a ride on the underside of the little wagon as it followed the floppy-eared puppy on his route. Though Doodle Dog had taken these roads not too long ago at all, it would be different this time, as he wasn't sniffing out the best treats and trying to avoid any tricky surprises in his way. Instead of filling up his bucket with yummy snacks to enjoy at home, he was looking forward to a quite empty treat wagon at the end of the day! The sort-of reverse Trick-or-Treat plan started off quite quickly



as he stopped at the shop right near him where he knew a fluffy orange cat made its home. The bags on one side of the wagon smelled like the ocean, as the scent of the fresh tuna mashed inside the soft nibbles escaped even through the sturdy packaging. Doodle Dog lightly caught the top of the closest bag in his teeth and dropped it in front of the shop's door where he knew the kitty would be sure to find it.

On and on he went through town, each bag of yummy cheer disappearing from the wagon and reappearing on the porch, stoop, steps or mat of a four-legged friend's home. He knew the German Shepherd who lives across the street gets all itchy when it eats peanuts, so Doodle Dog made sure to place a bag of pumpkin-filled ones on that doorstep! As he continued along down the sidewalk, Doodle Dog could smell the different containers of pumpkin, oats, sweet potatoes, honey and peanut butter even through their wrappings, the scents wafting up into a mixture of yummy whiffs just waiting to be sniffed! One by one the yummy whiffs wafted from the wagon, carried on the wind – and in a little floppy-eared puppy's grasp – to one of the town's furry residents. Before he knew it, the little wagon only had two packages left: one like the ocean and one that reminded Doodle Dog of the sweet oatmeal his humans sometimes made for breakfast. At his last stop of the route, Doodle Dog's favorite feline friend peeked out the window so all the floppy-eared puppy could see was white paws and long white whiskers bright against the evening backdrop. The extra-special tuna treat soon sat softly on the stoop. Doodle Dog could almost hear his friend purr in gratitude!

All the deliveries were made, but the oatmeal pouch remained... and Doodle Dog knew exactly what to do.

He wondered if Santa's Reindeer would like a snack too! (Of course he hoped they wouldn't mind sharing.) They would be visiting soon or maybe he could send it to the North Pole. And with that, the little floppy-eared puppy scampered back to the office to write a letter.