



# Puppy Tails

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*As the moon goes to bed, the sun comes up  
And here we meet a sleepy pup,  
Who was walking through G-ville one bright sunny day,  
Then saw The Villager and decided to stay.*

Several months ago, a little floppy-eared puppy wandered curiously down a street in Garrettsville and into the office of The Weekly Villager. This little four-legged friend then soon found his way onto the pages of the newspaper and pattered right on into the hearts of thousands of readers, young and old. Now, with dozens of adventures behind him and countless sidewalk squares under his paws, Doodle Dog is still very much happily serving as comic relief, guard dog, and quite often as proofreader, listening with the kind of patience and interest that only a floppy-eared puppy could do, and eager to still be sharing our stories and his stories too!

Today as Doodle Dog scampered along in his picnic blanket superhero doggie cape, the sights and sounds of town seemed extra exciting. Summer had finally arrived and the warm sun tickled the tops of his ears with its playful rays as he bounced here and bounded there. The brightness suddenly glinted off a spot in the middle of his path and it only took Doodle Dog a moment to find a shiny penny glowing brilliantly on the gray concrete. He knew that penny was very special on its own but could turn into something even more special when joined up with many more like it, just as how each of his adventures are unique on their own but when added all up they made something even more wonderful! Deep in thought, soon the little floppy-eared puppy reached the road where the office lives and took some time to explore a few particularly interesting nooks between the pavement and the grass on his way to the front door. Sniffing a patch of freshly-sprouted moss, Doodle Dog

stifled a sneeze as the scent caught up even stronger on the breeze! Maybe he better stick to clover...

Making quick work of the rest of the distance to the entrance, the curious puppy heard more than just the whispering wind quietly rustling in his floppy ears, but it wasn't quite nearly as loud as the cars passing by behind him either. Hmmm... Doodle Dog's paws paused on the welcome mat and one of his ears perked up to take note of what was going on around him, and then the other one joined in too. What was a curious little floppy-eared puppy to do? No better way to find out what was making the sound than to open the door and see for himself!

Inside, the main room usually covered in a smattering of scattered bits for articles with projects-in-progress as the primary theme for decorating, now welcomed visitors with black, white and red balloons floating gently to lead the way among the stacks of current newspapers. More streamers and balloons were strewn cheerily through every room of the entire first floor, dancing in between guests who had gathered. Some of the people Doodle Dog recognized from his many adventures through the village – there were shop owners from down the street, book guardians from the library where all his favorite stories are kept and several of the little children from the big bumblebee school bus - it seemed as though the whole town had come out to see him! Even just out the window he could see his furry friends from the fields and forest peering in to say hello!

And then he saw her – there, in a shirt the exact hue of his favorite red leaf, was his very favorite human, the one who helps him tell all his stories. She stood in the middle of the office chatting with a young girl about all the interesting places the floppy-eared puppy has been as she gently held a book in her hands. Immediately spotting Doodle Dog, she smiled and placed the book on the floor in front of him. For me?! Putting a paw print in just the right spot, the floppy-eared puppy smiled too as the

little girl gave him a hug and carried her new book out the door. Watching her from the office window, he knew just where this very special book was going to go – on her bookshelf with the dust bunnies!

Next time you walk by that window, you might just find a floppy-eared puppy peeking out at you ready for his next adventure! Where do you think he will go next week? Doodle Dog can't wait to find out together - don't worry, he doesn't bite!

