



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.*

Shake. Shake-shake. Shakety-shake-shake-shake! The last of the water droplets flew every which way as Doodle Dog made sure every inch of him was dry. He shook one of his front legs and then the other, one of his back legs and then the other. He shook his head back and forth so that water rolled off his nose and he shook his floppy ears so quickly that wet drops scattered around him in such a dewy cloud that he appeared to be in a giant rainstorm-filled puppy bubble! And lastly, for good measure, Doodle Dog shook the very very tip of his tail to flick off any bit of water that might be sticking around. Doodle Dog was grateful that the clear lake with its sparkling waves had been exactly where he'd remembered it to be, and he was even more grateful that he was now dust-and-grass-clipping free. The quite-clean, sort-of-wide-awake, floppy-eared puppy was now certainly ready to continue exploring and see what this new day would lead him to discover. Doodle Dog lifted his now-dry nose toward the warm sunshine and noticed something colorful floating in the distance. It was traveling too smoothly through the air and didn't quite look like his butterfly friend that flits from place to place. And it didn't have any wings so it didn't quite look like the birds he sees flapping with the breeze. Doodle Dog couldn't tell exactly what it was from all the way down there, but he figured he would probably find out along the way.

With a trail of faint paw prints behind him – the bottoms of his paws were still a tiny bit moist apparently – Doodle Dog made his way through the cattails, past an unkempt and uncut grassy field, and to a slightly trodden path skirting the edge of a wooded area. Doodle Dog didn't want to go into the wooded area because he'd never been to this part of the forest before. He likes adventure just as much as the next puppy, but this day Doodle Dog decided to stay closer to the familiar. At least for now.

Soon enough, as he followed the border of the forest, Doodle Dog came upon a small clearing that almost immediately opened into a not-so-small clearing which THEN opened into a definitely-not-small clearing. This wide, open field was familiar enough to Doodle Dog – he'd wandered here once or twice before – but he'd never seen it

look like this! Instead of the usual blanket of green, stretched out before him were large spots of what appeared to be dozens and dozens of individual plastic carpets in all colors and patterns. As Doodle Dog bounded along, trying not to let his paws touch anything but the tiny spots of grass, he noticed some of the carpets had stripes, some had stars, and one even had a giant heart that took Doodle Dog ten whole bounces to get past! At the farthest part of the field with the most open space away from the trees, one of the blue-and-green-striped carpets was growing upward like a very round, very tall monster swaying in the wind! As Doodle Dog came closer to it he could see a man standing in a person-sized basket under this growing monster. Several other giant balloons, already fully inflated with hot air, were floating away from the field, filling the sky with colors and patterns. The man was checking the cables inside the basket making sure they were secure and when Doodle Dog approached, the man stepped out to untie the rope holding the balloon on the ground. Now Doodle Dog could see a little girl standing behind the basket wall excitedly waiting for lift-off. Just as he spotted her, the little girl spotted the floppy-eared puppy; before he knew it, Doodle Dog was in the basket too, the door closed tightly behind him and the man, the little girl, the basket, and the floppy-eared puppy lifting off the ground into the sky!

Doodle Dog didn't want to look at first and decided to hide on the floor of the basket with his paw over his nose, but then he decided if the little girl could be brave, he could be brave too. So he slowly made his way to the wall of the basket as it was lifted higher and higher by the bright, hot flame above them, and put his front paws up on the edge so he could look out. One of his back paws stepped right on the little girl's sneaker, but she didn't

seem to mind – he isn't very heavy after all! – and patted him between his floppy ears. Wow! Doodle Dog could see his whole town way down below. He could see the clear blue lake and patches of green that must be the trees and tiny spots of color that were the houses and shops and all the roads that connected them. There were even tinier spots of color that must be the people in the town who had no idea Doodle Dog was floating above them.

The warm wind wafted over Doodle Dog's ears – definitely dry now! – and he found he was actually enjoying himself. Hey, there was the office! Seeing it from way up there made him kind of miss home, especially as he could hear a rumble in his tummy that definitely wasn't the loud roar coming from the hot air as it escaped the flame burner. The man must have heard the rumble too because he took his hand not controlling the flame and opened a small box full of cookie biscuits that smelled like oatmeal and peanut butter. They looked like the biscuits the lady at the bakery in town makes just for the pets that visit her shop. Doodle Dog loves to stop by there. The nice man must stop there too! The little girl shared a biscuit with Doodle Dog and as the floppy-eared puppy nibbled away, he continued to enjoy this new perspective of all the places he's seen and places he will very much look forward to exploring!

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Heart Of Doll Country News

SUBMITTED BY CAROLYN ENGLERT

The June meeting of the Heart of Doll Country was held at the home of Carolyn Englert. We have had no response to our query about the girls who participated in a 1999 Doll Tea Party jointly sponsored by Waterfall Antiques and Lee Middleton Dolls. If you were one of those girls, please contact either Jean Lawrence, 330-546-5810 or Carolyn Englert, 330-527-4888. We'd love to have a reunion!

Co-President Pat Dutchman said that she had spoken with a neighbor who was a Girl Scout leader about inviting the girls to one of our meetings. The girls can earn a badge for participating. Each member will give a brief talk about an area of doll collecting or doll making.

There was a brief discussion about the Luncheon as plans are finalized. A Doll's Christmas in July, with guest speaker Sandy Pelphrey will be held at the Kirtlander Party Center on July 15th. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$15 for children 5-15. There will be lots of fun events, prizes, and auction items.

The meeting was adjourned while members did a Show and Tell. Pat had her travel doll dressed in party attire, including a tiara. She also had a reproduction Googly Doll, a boy dressed as a WWII Soldier Boy. Kerin showed a birthday present of a tin with a horse-themed cover, and lots of little dolls inside. Carolyn said that the dolls currently on display for this meeting were her antique ones, including one that belonged to her mother and another that belonged to her grandmother. Jeanne showed the doll she had made for her other club's Gala, a cloth doll dressed as an eccentric wedding guest.

We all enjoyed the refreshments of assorted cookies, a fruit platter and lemonade. Jean Lawrence won the door prize, a china head and arms set for making a little doll, and a book on dressing old-fashioned dolls.

The next meeting will be at Pat Dutchman's house in Burton, on July 3rd at 7 PM. For any information on the club or its upcoming meetings, call Carolyn Englert at the above phone number.

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- SMOOTHER** - The S&P 500 reached its 2011 closing high on 4/29/11, the final trading day in April. Over the subsequent 8 months through the end of 2011, the stock index had a daily gain or loss of at least 1% (total return) on 81 separate trading days, an average of 10 per month. In the first month of 2012, there were just 2 days when the S&P 500 experienced a daily gain or loss of at least 1%. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks that is generally considered representative of the US stock market (source: BTN Research).
- STOCKS AND BONDS** - In the last 25 years (i.e., 1987-2011), the S&P 500 stock index has produced a total return of at least +20% in 9 different years, most recently in 2009 (achieving a gain of +26.5%). Over the same period, long-term US treasuries have produced a total return of at least +20% in 4 different years, most recently in 2011 (achieving a gain of +29.9%). The Barclays Capital Long-Term Treasury index, calculated using US Treasury publicly issued obligations with maturities of 10 years or greater, was used as the bond measurement (source: BTN Research, Barclays Capital).
- BETTER THAN MOST** - The S&P 500 was up +4.5% (total return) in January 2012, its best January since 1997. The month's performance was better than 83% of the last 250 months (source: BTN Research).
- SUPER PRICES** - The most expensive Super Bowl ticket (face value price, not the price paid through a ticket broker) for Super Bowl # 1 in Los Angeles (1967) was \$12. The most expensive ticket for Super Bowl # 46 in Indianapolis (2012) is \$1,200. The increase in Super Bowl ticket prices from \$12 in 1967 to \$1,200 in 2012 is equal to +10.8% compounded per year for 45 years (source: Super Bowl).

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