



Puppy Tails

MIALIE T. SZYMANSKI | CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

*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.*

One of the things Doodle Dog loves most about summer is the beautiful colors all around. Whether it is the soft pink of a petal nurtured by spring soil or the shimmering blue of the drops from a light seasonal rainstorm or even the cheery yellow of the sun itself yawning above the wide open earth, inviting hues surround him from all sides!

As the floppy-eared puppy meandered down the sidewalk, the yummy flavors of the assorted treats from the barkery still lingered on his tongue. Even better, the brilliant tints that brightened that edible display of masterpieces still stayed in his mind, just as vibrant as they were when he captured them with his gaze. The intertwining shades of culinary delights still mingled with the sights of the late summer flowers poking out from the borders of the backyard and Doodle Dog knew they would always be there for him to see in his mind so long as he simply remembered to think about them. Summer may be snoozing now, but the floppy-eared puppy also knew that autumn has its own wonderful palette of colors just waiting to be painted across the sky and over the trees and along the paths ready for him to scamper through on his next visit.

The decorations in the windows on his route were starting to transform too, morphing into a new costume change like the tone-shifting leaves dressing the trees in scenic fashions of fall. Echoing not only the new sights of the season but the new tastes as well, each window served as a mini art gallery, framed by the storefronts on either side of it, until the scene melted into the next display case which took over from the last. Pumpkins, gourds and a basket overflowing with crisp red apples arranged in one area blended into multicolored cobs of corn, tiny hay bales and a garland of leaves in rust, maroon and cranberry hues draped in the next, while in yet another, monster masks, fuzzy black cats, pointy hats poised on stiff brooms, a steaming cauldron and some of the same pumpkins from the first, this time with creative carvings and spooky sentiments, made it seem as though someone was already getting into the spirit of Halloween!

One section appeared to be an exact replica of what the outside landscape was in the process of doing, a mini mirror of Mother Nature with a carpet of crunchy leaves, a tall sprig of tree and piles of acorns dotting the design. Before he could spot all the elements in front of him, the floppy-eared puppy paused as a cluster of four-legged friends and their humans scampered into the next frame along his path. Peeking in, Doodle Dog could see several dogs were already in various stages of pawdicures, some dunking paws, some shaking dry and some sitting still for shiny polish. A large golden dog patiently put one paw in a pan of scented water to soften its skin while a tan and black dog a few spaces down was watching a lady carefully paint two-tone stripes on its claws to match its furry coat. A pocket-sized pooch between them was

small enough that it could stand in one of the pans with all four paws soaking at once!

Doodle Dog followed an attendant to one of the stations, letting her gently dip his claws into the petite pool. As she massaged each paw one and then the next, the floppy-eared puppy patiently sat and let his mind relax as best he could, but thoughts of the changing seasons and all the fun waiting for him outside was hard to quiet! He let his gaze wander to the window where the white clouds were lazily wafting past, and then a few leaves loose from their trees, tiny dots of color gold and orange across the view, and then, softly a larger spot of color as a bright kite floating outside the window painted the scene in purples and teals, a definite contrast to the warmer tones brought on by the cooler season's palette.

Doodle Dog didn't even notice that his pawdicurist had moved from his fuzzy pads and was now lightly filing his claws and soon the very paws that had made peanut butter biscuits and pumpkin bites were now about to be coated in something even more colorful, kind of stinky and not nearly at all edible! The floppy-eared puppy looked around to see that everyone else was getting crazy colors ~ the golden dog now had hot pink points sneaking out from its yellow toes, the tan and black dog with its stripes, the tiny pup's tips were now a neon green to match its human's purse and a fluffy poodle fresh from a perm was letting a coat of electric blue dry on its claws to coordinate with the new ribbons scattered around its fur. One dog even had multiple colors on its toes, causing a rainbow of polish to shine from under its fur as it spread its paws wide. Apparently its human had a hard time deciding which one to choose! No thank you... Doodle Dog decided his paws are pretty enough just the way they are, especially now that they were extra clean and freshly trimmed! That will make pattering along even more enjoyable. He didn't need his claws to be tiny dots of color decorated with any of the sparkly, glittering pots of paint on display, so he gave a grateful bark to the lady who made his paws quite nice already and bounced down off the special seat. But as he stepped away from the chair, his front right paw suddenly felt wet. The floppy-eared puppy looked down to find one toe accidentally plunking in a pool of purple nail polish. Though all of his other claws were clean, the space between his tiniest two toes was now a color inspired by the fluttering kite. Okay, well maybe just that one...