

Community Comment – March 27th, 2017

By Jon Sapper

Rescue Dogs

I made a mistake the other day by asking some good friends as to what I should talk about for my next Community Comment. When you ask that kind of question, you need to be prepared for what they might suggest. I did ask one individual in Fortuna who said,.... “I’ve listened to every one of your Community Comments and I think you need to do one on the Last Chance Grade, that road south of Crescent City that’s slipping into the ocean.” I said, “Yea. Thanks. That’s a great idea! Should it be different than the one I did two weeks ago on the Last Chance Grade?” His long reply was,..... “Oh.”

Back to the suggestions from my friends.....I was expecting them to say, “Do one on the accomplishments of some of our great local students since you don’t even scratch the surface on wonderful things they are doing; or, do one on the amount of rain we have had this year and how people who have lived here for less than 15 years are doing backflips; or, do one on something political because you almost always steer clear of politics. But no, none of those topics came up. They unanimously agreed I should do one on rescue dogs.

After half-heartedly agreeing, I started thinking,.... how am I going to talk for several minutes about a topic I know little about? I’ve talked about Bella the English Bulldog and Cooper, our 95lb. black golden doodle that’s a terrorist, evidenced by what he has destroyed around the yard. Neither of these were rescue dogs.

However, when I found out that close to 2,000 dogs are euthanized every day in the U.S., I thought, “Wow, that’s a lot more than I would have guessed.” And when I read about how wonderful rescue dogs are as household pets, and companions for seniors, and therapy dogs for mentally disabled adults, and dogs that can help autistic children pay better attention and learn how to positively interact with the dog, and dogs that can help children and adults who are clinically depressed feel better about themselves and improve their willingness to communicate; the value of rescue dogs skyrocketed, in my mind.

I heard of one particular situation where dogs that have been severely injured and lost multiple limbs were being fitted with rolling chariot looking devices so they could get around. These dogs were then being used to interact with physically disabled children who saw the dogs as having something in common with them.

There are local organizations where you can check this out.....Sequoia Humane Society, Miranda's Rescue and the Humboldt County Animal Shelter would be great places to contact. Providing a good home for quote, "man's best friend", will do wonders for the dog.....and you.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.