

# Lucky's Tail



End of January 2024

Greetings my wonderful sponsor person! It's your pup of good fortune ~ Lucky ~ here to wish you a somewhat belated Happy New Year and check on how things are going in your life! How are you? It's been a bit challenging with the weird weather we've been having don't you think? Here in Calgary we had rain on New Year's Eve ~ which just happened to be the day I turned 11 months old! It was excellent because I got some tasty treats to celebrate and the next day I got to play in icy puddles on my first walk of the year! That was super fun even if the water was kinda chilly ~ I loved the way the puddles cracked open and the water splashed up on me when I stomped on them...and I never knew for sure if a puddle would crack or not so it was also an enjoyable guessing game and you know I had to try them all!

But even way before the cold weather started, I had some great adventures ~ like going to Camp Horizon which is a special camp for children with disabilities and medical conditions. I got to meet a bunch of great people and spend time with some awesome kids... they had a lot of good questions about my training, and we also got to share some cuddles which is one of my best things to do! Of course, I also got to cuddle some of you at the Puppy Pawty which was the first time I've ever been to an actual pawty! It was so exciting for me, and I can't wait until we have one this year.



Do you know what else is exciting? Riding around on the small public transit buses! That's right... they are so fun mom calls them 'kidney shakers'... which I bet I would find hilarious if I actually knew what a kidney was ~ but there



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are still a lot of things I'm learning in my life, so I'll just add that one to the list. Mom said that I did so well ~ actually she says I 'aced it' ~ that we will be riding the big bus and C-Train soon, so I'll be able to tell you about that in my next letter!

Another memorable adventure was attending the Calgary Philharmonic dress rehearsal. Mom didn't get to come because her and dad were away, but my awesome boarder parent took me and said I behaved very well.

Speaking of my boarder family ~ they were lovely! I spent a couple of months with them before Christmas and they helped me smooth out some of the rough spots in my 'at-home behaviour'. You see, in addition to being a fortunate furball ~ I'm also known for being a 'work in progress'... especially when I'm left to my own devices! My Training Instructor Sandra says that when I make my own choices ~ unfortunately they are often poor ones. 😞 For example, paper ripping, chilling out on the furniture, and checking to see if I can reach the counter with my paws! Now some of you might think these are kind of regular-type pup behaviours, and I guess they might be if you aren't trying to become a Guide or Service Dog. Us pups-in-training are held to a higher standard ~ which some days seems pretty tough ~ but I've met quite a few dogs who've been successful, and I think it's good to have important goals and to try to improve the things I can improve.



Mom says she definitely has seen improvement since I got home but I do still have challenges with 'finding things I'm not supposed to have'. On the pawisitive side, this means that I am getting pretty good with the 'leave it' command... and my humans are getting pretty good at putting all their stuff away! One of the games that helps me learn what I can have is the *Find Your Toy* game... I just have to remember what that toy is called in human words and then I can usually find it.

You'll be happy to know that even with my ability to make many poor choices I can also make some good ones. Sandra says I'm 'excellent' when I'm working and that I know all my commands and skills. She likes that I'm connected to my handler and pretty good working around other dogs ~ but when I'm not on training time I need to learn how to play more nicely with other pups. *Sigh...* I guess I am a work in progress after all!



*Riding the 'kidney shaker' with mom!*

worth the tradeoff.

Right now with the cold weather mom is helping me make good choices inside the house by keeping me challenged with an obstacle course. I have to go under, over and through chairs, stools, obstacles on the floor, and various distractions all around and about. This is also a work in progress for me but in a super good way and I love trying to figure things out! *Thanks Mom!* ❤️

Speaking of being thankful ~ this is a good time to remind you of what a great support you are for me! I know that being on the Puppy Writing Program means you get to hear about all my 'bad choices', but it also means I have an amazing team behind me cheering me on in spite of it all ~ and I think that's well

So, that pretty much catches you up on my recent adventures. As much as I've loved the snow and ice puddles I am looking forward to sniffing the green grass and watching the flowers grow. How about you? I've heard there's a spring bud



called the Pussy Willow which sounds both interesting and terrifying! I never thought about cats growing on trees ~ but I guess they have to get here somehow!

Well, mom's almost got the obstacle course set up and it looks like she might be hiding some treats in there so I better hurry before she changes her mind! Keep your paws crossed that my progress keeps going in the right direction ~ even with a name like Lucky... sometimes you need some extra good wishes.

All my best and favourites to  
You!  
Love, your pup-in-  
progress,

*Lucky*



I really hope that  
Pussy Willows are  
smaller than these  
trees!