

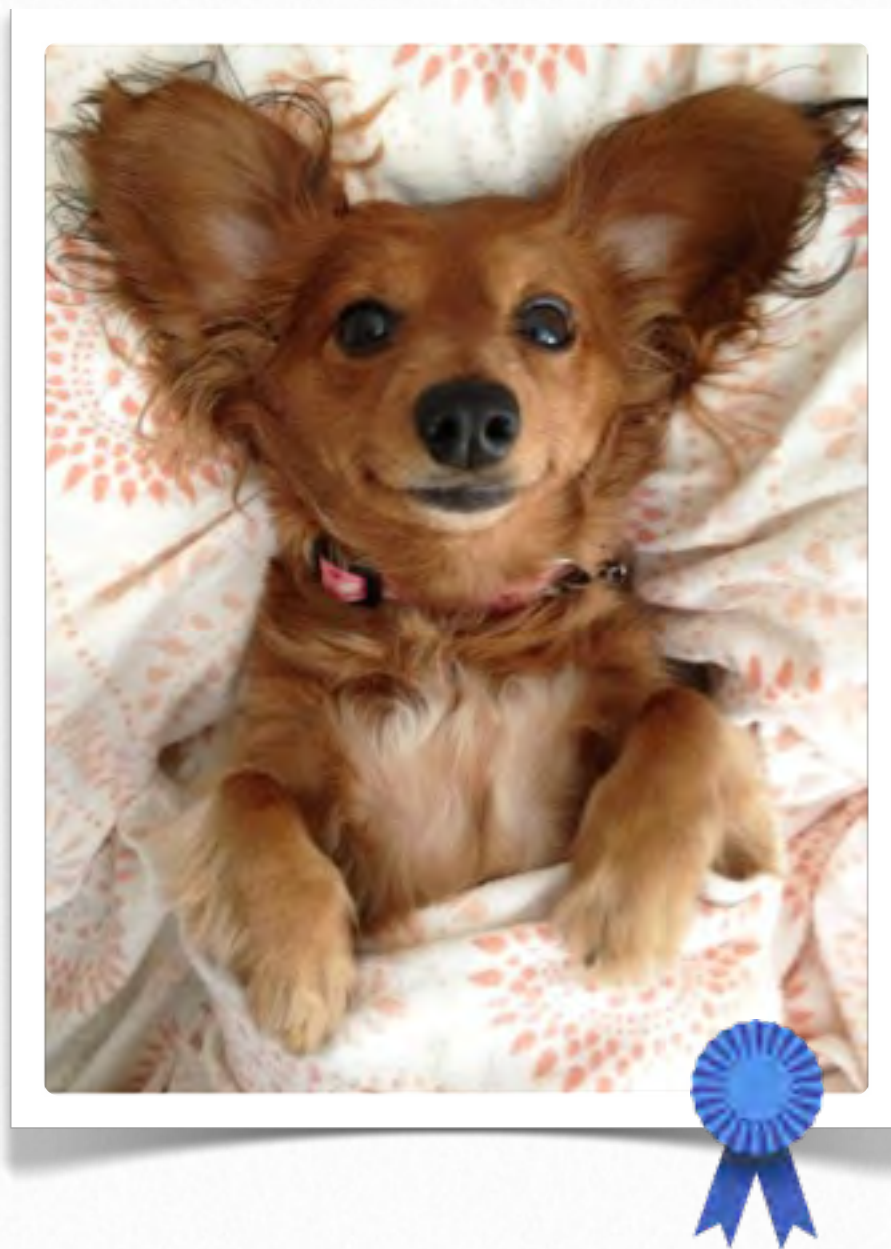


**Oh, I See!**  
**My Dog Taught Me.**





# Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me.



O|C Books

[www.oh-i-see.com/blog](http://www.oh-i-see.com/blog)

Copyright © 2014 by **OIC Books, LLC**

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior permission in writing from the Publisher.

**OIC Books**

26385 Carmel Rancho Blvd, Suite 103

Carmel, CA 93923

[www.oh-i-see.com/blog](http://www.oh-i-see.com/blog)

*Jennifer Machamer's dog Wiggle appears on title page*





# About This Book

[OIC Moments](#) is a place to feed your mind and fuel your imagination with unique ideas and insights on creativity, cultures, and everyday life. It's a community of people who enjoy learning, growing, and seeing the world from different points of view.

As it happens, we are also dog lovers. We published the French travel adventures of a lovable Sheltie, Chula Wula D'Augue, in [Dog Trots Globe—To Paris & Provence](#). Part photo essay, travelogue, and canine memoir, seeing France from Chula's unique perspective reminds us all to enjoy every moment, and to stop and smell (or in Chula's case, sniff) the flowers.

**It turns out that life with a dog is full of “Oh, I see!” moments, and often it seems they teach us even more than we teach them!**

That realization inspired us to run a contest asking people to share lessons learned from their dogs. A selection of their remarkable canine-inspired life lessons have been assembled in this book.

We hope you enjoy these photos and stories, and take away an **“Oh, I see!” moment** or two from these amazing dogs!



*Jenna Saucedo's dog Hector*



*Linda South's dog*



*Kaileen Vair's dog Zoey*



*Bree Warner's dog Rue*

# Contents



Pat Holcomb's dog Butch

## Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me:

1 All About Love .....	5
2 The Meaning of Friendship .....	17
3 To Live in the Moment .....	30
4 To Laugh Out Loud .....	40
5 A Wealth of Life Lessons .....	50
Photo Credits .....	65



*The Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me contest allowed people to vote for their favorite photos and stories. Top vote-getters are marked with a blue ribbon.*



*The dogs who are no longer with us are identified with wings. Their lessons guide us daily and keep them in our hearts forever.*



# 1

## Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me: **All About Love**



*Joyce Riebe's dog Loki*





# Zeus



**Ciara Provencio's** dog Zeus was like a son with fur. She says, "When I'm upset, his kisses will make it all better. When I'm mad, his tail-wagging—like no other—will make me in a better mood. When I'm happy, I always have someone there to create memories with."

Zeus taught her that love isn't always from one human to another, and that love means truly caring about someone you couldn't live without. When she talks about her dog, she opens her heart: "Zeus is my fur baby, and he will always be the love of my life."





# Baxter



**Frank and Marcia Walker's** Golden Retriever Baxter knew how much his humans loved him. They let him think their house was his and that they only lived in it with him.

Frank says "My dog Baxter taught me there is no better Furever Friend! He gave us unconditional love, always was happy to see us, never disappointed us, and we could talk to him about anything. He always gave us kisses to make us feel better and would stay close to us as he knew we needed his furry touch. He made any bad day so much better just because he was in it! "

From Baxter, Marcia learned the meaning of love with no expectations, "Our once-in-a-lifetime furever boy had cancer that was terminal. Our vet gave him three months to live. We decided there was no reason to operate and put him in pain unnecessarily. We were devastated—he was only seven years old. . . . This dog loved us so much, he didn't want to leave us, and he actually lived for two years longer than he was expected to live.

"The love that this dog gave us unconditionally every day taught us more than any other living thing on this Earth. We will never ever stop missing him, but I know this love will bring us back together again, and he will be waiting for us when it's time. "





# Chili



**Cathy Clark** learned more than unconditional love from her dog:

“Chili has taught me to love unconditionally, to relax and to sleep in whatever position is most comfortable. There is a lot of wisdom in those eyes. :)”





# Angel and Peter

**Susan Cain's** dogs bring her "love when you least expect it."



# Roxy

"Roxy taught me to live, laugh, and most importantly, love. She is the most lovey dog ever! "

**Jenna Mason**





# Millee



**Donna Williams'** dog showed her how to love unconditionally, and Donna has returned the love:



"Millee is a rescue. We don't know her past, but we know she is very timid about a lot of things / situations. Yet, she goes through her days with a wag in her tail and a cuddle to give. She has found security, and we have seen her blossom. She asks for her thunder shirt when it storms and doesn't hide from the noise anymore. It's a great feeling knowing she is in a forever home, and she feels safe and secure at last.

"I love her smile when she looks at me, and it is pure love. I am so proud of how she has grown. I can't imagine being without her and am so glad we found her. So are her sisters Abbee and Pennee. They are inseparable. "





# Aries



**Carol Morgan** is amazed by how dogs can sense when something isn't okay with a person. She has sleep apnea, and her baby Aries has taught himself to wake her up at night when she stops breathing and to help her in other ways. She explains:

"He stays awake all night every night and, if I stop breathing, he licks or nudges me until I wake up. . . . He also stays by my side constantly when I am home alone. I have fallen, and he will stand there so I can grab him in order to get up. When I am really sick, he sits and watches my every move. . . . He is a truly amazing dog.

"I have had dogs my whole life, and they were all my babies as only they can show people what true unconditional love is. He is my hero! I can never repay the love and dedication he has given me. I know I am in good hands as long as he is around! "





# Shadow

“Shadow taught me that the important things are to love your family and protect them, and he taught me how it feels to love without limits. Shadow is truly an amazing dog.”

**Amanda Roach**

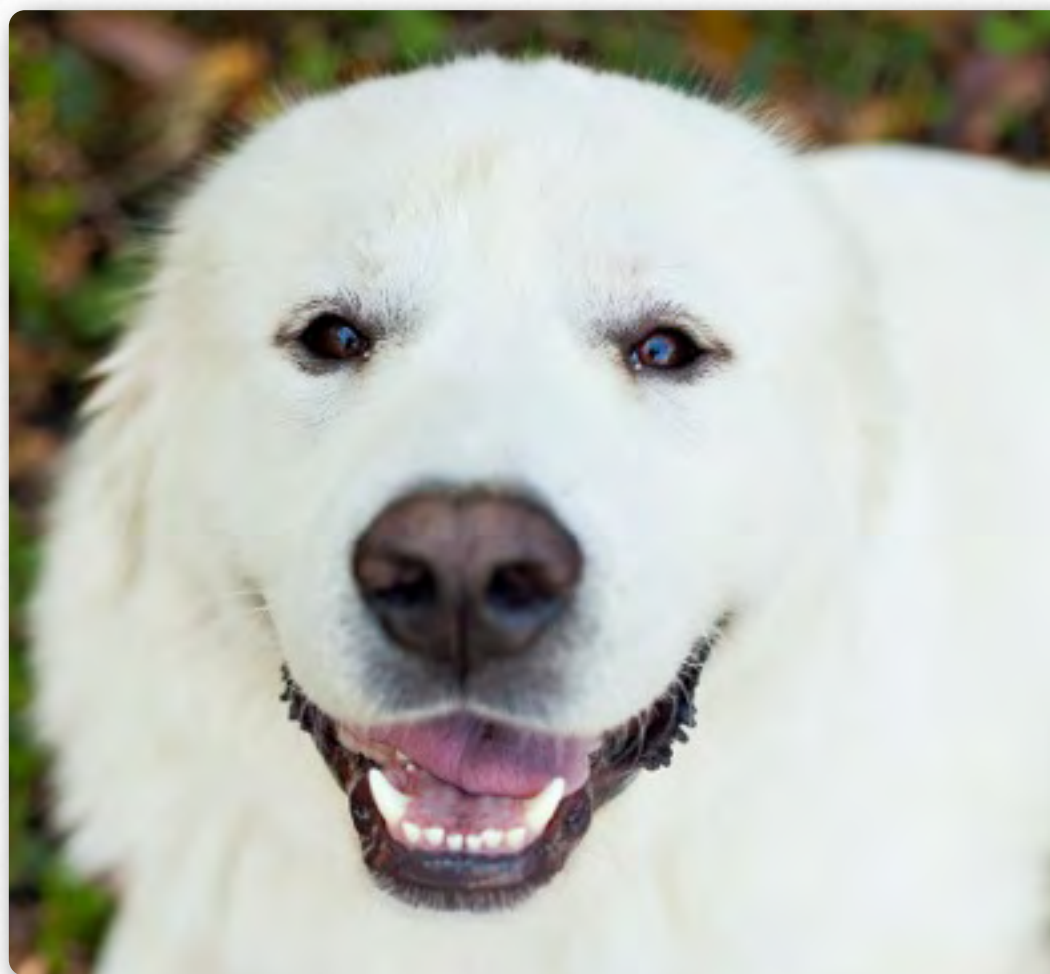


# Thor

“When Thor came to me, he was an absolute mess. He had been abandoned, and I found him wandering down the highway. Full of drool, dirt and mats, it took me weeks to get him fully cleaned up. . . . It took months to heal his scars, get his coat evenly grown, and help him gain the weight that he had lost.

“He's been with us a year and is the most amazing dog. He takes protecting us very seriously and loves me, my husband, and our girls with all of his heart. He taught me that when you truly and fully put into a relationship, you will get back more than you ever thought you could. And that one's circumstances do not equal his or her character.”

**Kirsten Brand**







# Oliver



“My baby Oliver went blind and taught me and many others to see with my heart and love with my soul.”

**Leslie Leathers**



# Deb's Dog

**Deborah Rollins'** Sheltie taught her that “unconditional love does exist. He gives of himself everyday and gives his love every minute of every day. He is part of me and I a part of him. I am so very blessed.”



# Maggie and Molly



**Margaret Serafino's** dogs are so lovable, trusted even by ducklings. Her dogs taught her that she "could love infinitely more than I ever thought possible."



# Cookie



**Alison Hanlon's** Border Collie has taught her so much in life, but in her words, "The most important thing that Cookie taught me was how to love, and that you are not alone. "



# Uzi



“Uzi taught my family that love for animals never fades even after they are gone. Rest in peace, Uzi.”

**Denise Fredericks**



# 2

Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me:

## The Meaning of Friendship



*Barbara Covitz's dogs*



# Terina's Big Guy



**Terina Stewart's** BFF is a dog who knows how to hug. She says, "Even though he is big, he still likes to climb on my lap and cuddle."



# Luna

What makes a good friend? **Malory Mildenberger's** dog Luna had all the answers:

"An over-abundance of exuberance, smiles, energy, a shoulder to lean on, a paw to extend in aid, a tail that never stops wagging, eyes brighter than the sun, a thick coat for when things get a bit rough, a ball to share, kisses to heal wounds that are either physical or psychological, and—above all else—a never-ending intrigue to meet every dog that comes through the gate, be it a tiny Chihuahua or a massive Great Dane, because, deep down, all dogs need in the world, too, is a friend that will run through the green grass and towards a slobbery tennis ball."





# Max



**Rebecca James** had her soulmate Max for only three years, and he passed at the ripe age of fourteen. But he meant the world to her:

“He taught me that things in life happen for a reason. He was abused, and my parents picked him out for me at a shelter. My parents couldn't have picked a better dog for me! And not a day goes by that I don't miss him! RIP baby boy!”





# Macy and Hector



**Jenna Saucedo** admires the friendship between her dogs, who have inspired her career. She explains:

“My dogs Macy and Hector showed me that anyone can love each other. Macy is a Pit Bull mix and Hector is a Chihuahua, and together they are inseparable. These two made me realize that I wanted to go into the career of Animal Cruelty Investigation. I finish school next year!”



# Destiny



**Richard Wilkinson** learned what makes a good friend:

“Destiny has taught me to be there for your best friend no matter what. Through hard times and happy times, always show you care.”



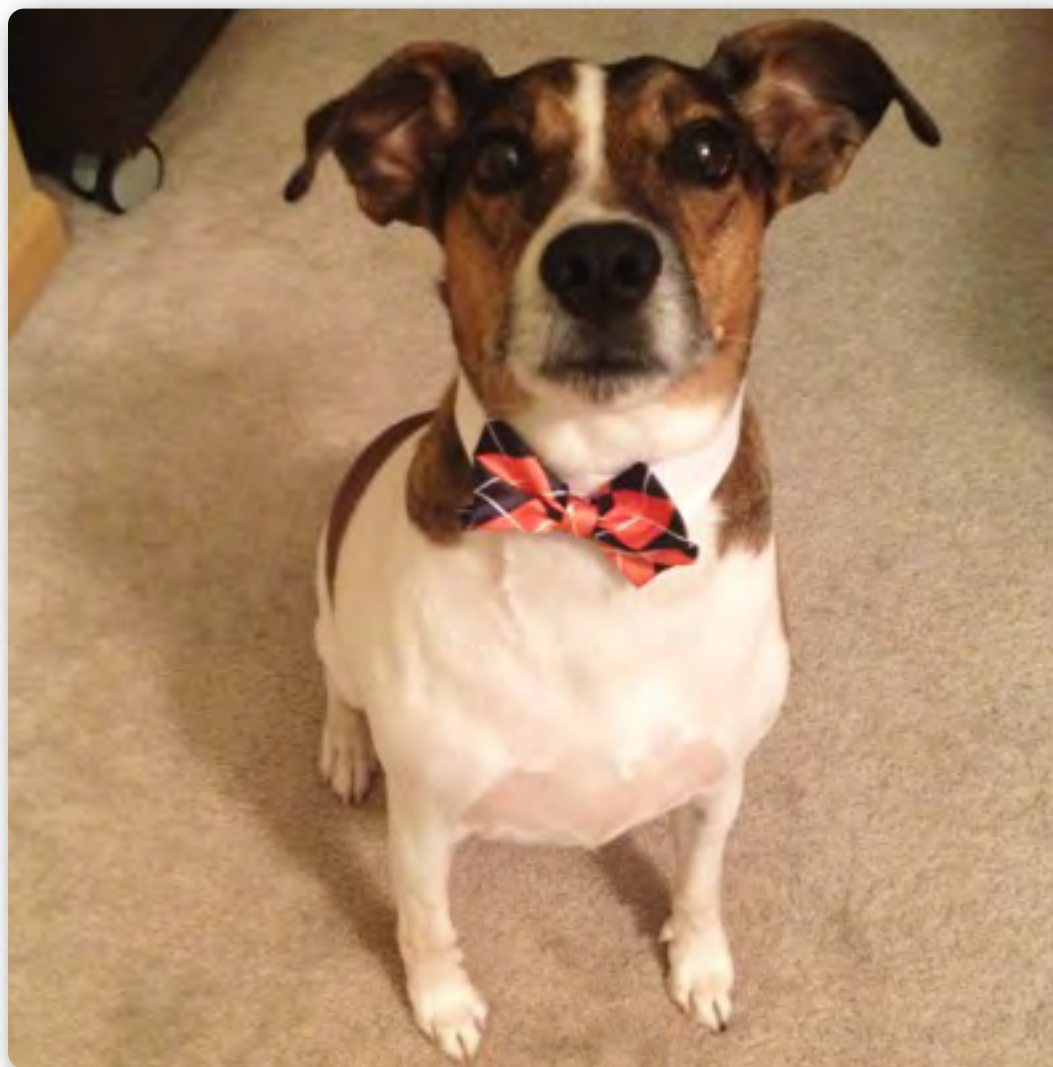


# Rocky



“Rocky taught me the true meaning of Man’s Best Friend.”

**Evelyn Dunham**



# Max

“I learned from my dog what it means to be a better companion.”

**Samantha Konrad**



# Banner



**Alishia Rea** literally saved the life of her best friend:

“Banner was my first puppy. I was there the day she was born. When she was delivered, she was lifeless and still. I began to cry and accept the fact that she was dead. My mother rubbed her all over and give her mouth-to-mouth. I continued as my mom ran in the house for a warm cloth. Out of nowhere, I felt movement—it was so magical. I had brought her back and watched her take her first breath. That was thirteen years ago.

“Since then, we have been a team, herding sheep, showing in 4-H, visiting the elderly, and growing up together. She has brightened my life and many who have had the pleasure of meeting her. After her rush to the vet last year and, once again, another near-death experience, Banner has taught me to live every day as if it were my last, cherish my friends, smile over the little things, and have patience even when all seems lost.”



# Barbara's Herd



"No matter the age, color, country of origin, or size, we can be great friends and enjoy relaxing moments together!"

**Barbara Newman**





# Annie

"Annie taught me that dogs and babies can be best friends! Annie is a six-year-old, 200-pound English Mastiff, and she is the best of friends with two-year-old Baby Colin! They do everything together!"

**Laura Cannella**



# Razor

"My dog taught me to always make time for friends, no matter how different they are."

**Kathy Davidson**





# Bella



**Shelbie Johnston** and her pup probably root for the same football team. After all, Shelbie says:

“Bella taught me unconditional love, friendship and that, as long as we live, we will be best friends forever!”



# Charlie and Tabby



**Denise Longley** has two best friends and because of them has made even more friends on Facebook in the rescue community. She says, "I could never choose one of my babies without the other. Both were rescued from unfortunate situations."



# Muffin



**Julie Cromer** has had her Sheltie for ten years now. Muffin has been a true family friend. Julie explains:

"Muffin has been a true blessing in every sense of the word. We have a special needs child, and my wish was for a dog that could alert us if our child went towards the door. We got Muffin as a puppy, and about two weeks after having her here, she started barking and getting all worked up. I went to check on her, and there was our child trying to get out. What a blessing our sweet Muffin truly is. "



# 3

## Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me: **To Live in the Moment**



*Lauren Harris' dog*



# Cruzer

“My seven-month-old puppy, Cruzer, taught me to stop trying to capture the sunset in a photo and remember to enjoy living in the moment.”

**Jessi Craft**





# Titan



"Titan taught me to play hard, sleep in, smile big, love more, forgive and forget. Thanks, buddy!"

**Dezi Greig**





# Odin



"Be goofy, yell if you feel like it, if it makes you happy just do it, bite the vet. Odin taught me more than I can ever say. I miss you, Odie."

**Dezi Greig**





# Ruger

When it comes to what Ruger taught **Holly Ziegler**, she says it simply:

“Enjoy all of life's little moments.”

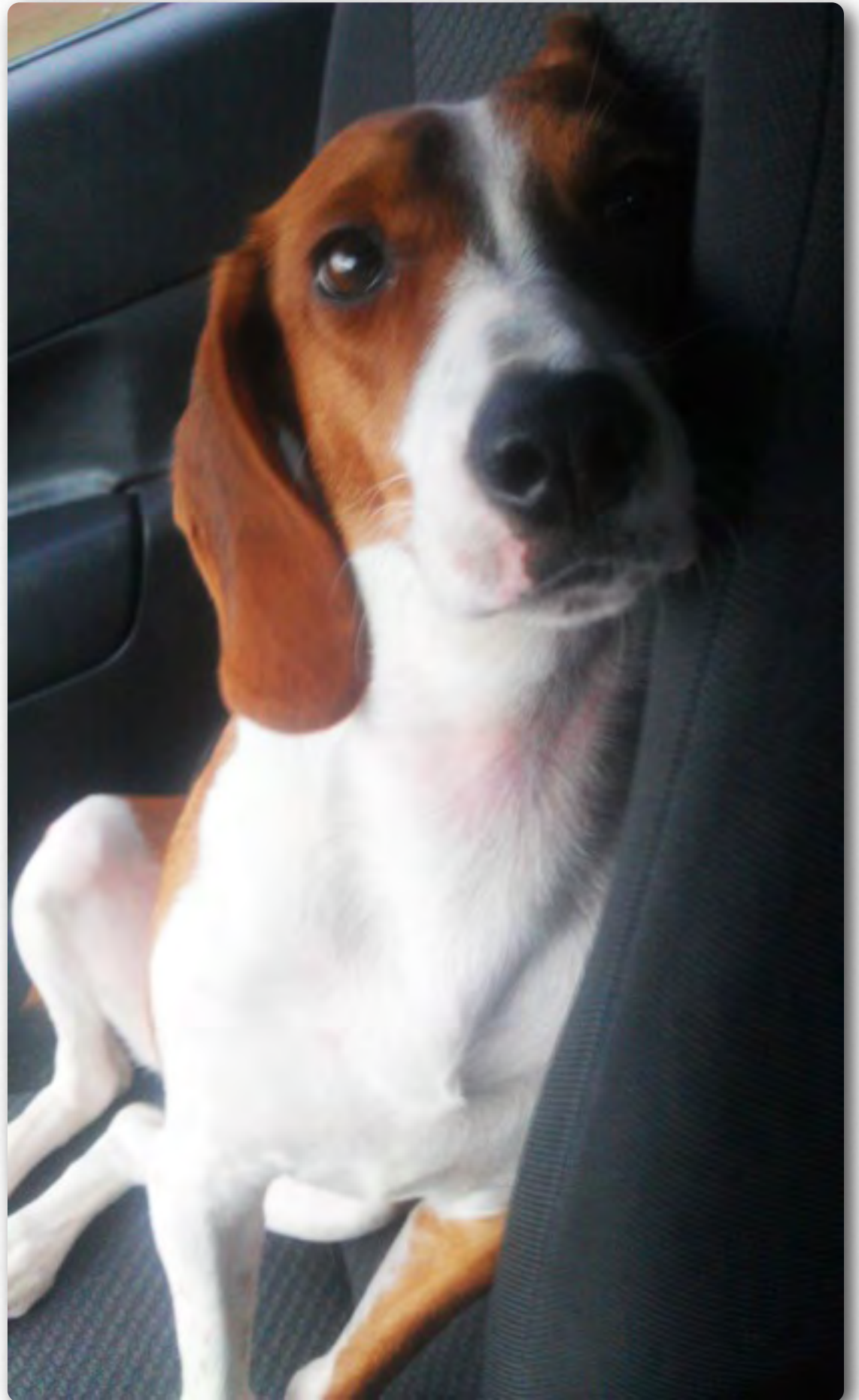




# Ellie

**Susan Howell** takes Ellie traveling with her so they share precious moments together. She says:

“There is nothing better than a road trip to bond with the ones you love.”





# Oshunta



“Oshunta taught me to slow down and just enjoy hanging out with her—not running all over instead of stopping and smelling the flowers!”

**Theresa Spaid**



# Autumn



“Autumn has taught me to live every day like it is my last. She has a disability, but she does not let it stand in the way of her zest for life. She is my inspiration every day!”

**Maria DiFulvio**



# Lee's Pup



**Lee McMullan** passes along some good advice for living in the moment. He learned it from his dog:

"Don't worry, you'll dry."



# Bree's Bunch

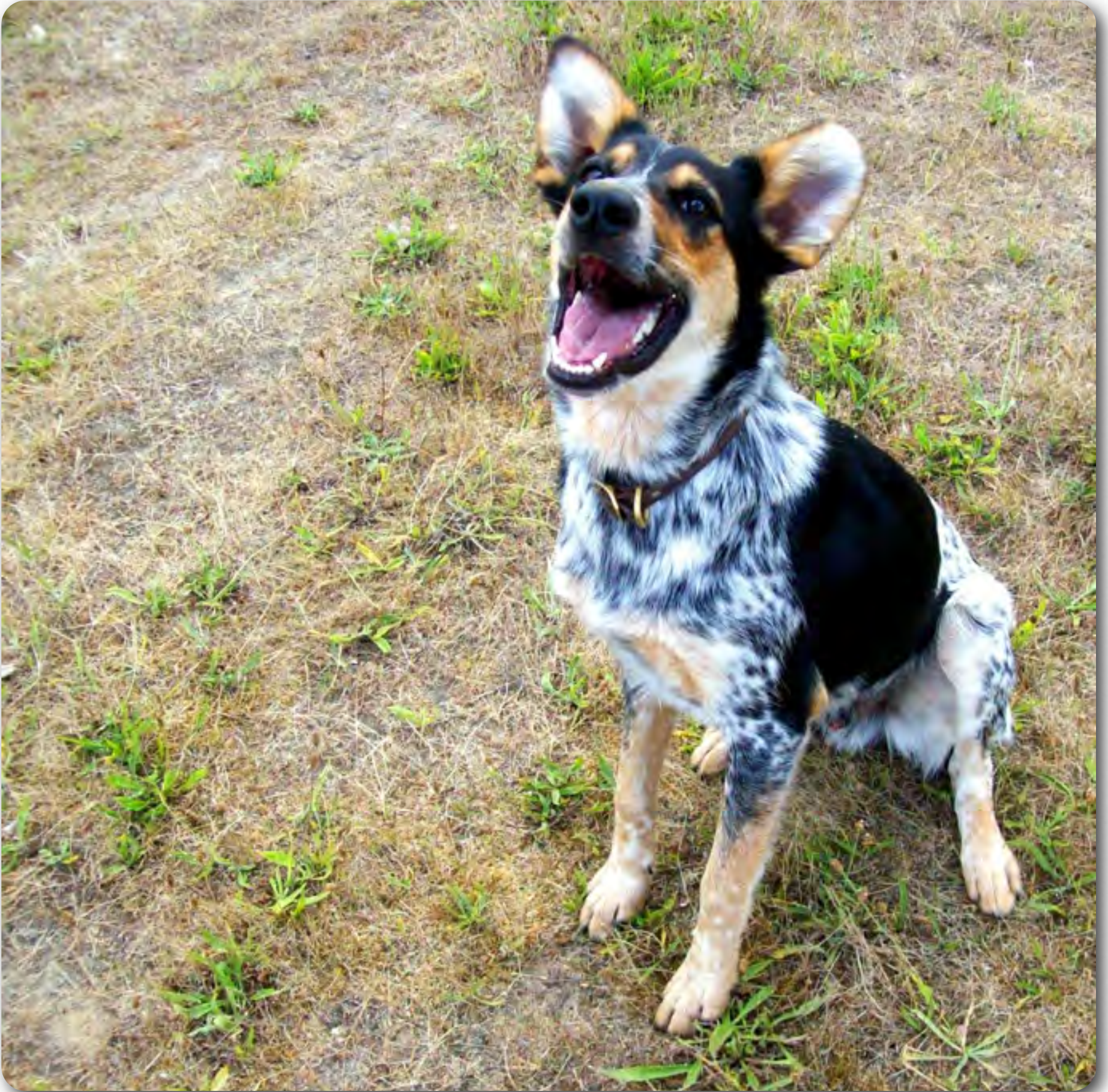


**Bree Hayhoe's** dogs taught her to look forward to new experiences. She says:

"Adventure is just around the corner—you just have to go and find it."



# 4 Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me: To Laugh Out Loud!



*Dezi Greig's dog Orion*



# Dexter



“Dexter taught me that frogs are not to be ingested, golfers are evil, that big dogs are chew toys with legs, and most importantly that dogs love a good dance party as much as anyone.”

**Rudy Martinez**



# Max



**Katrina Brooks** knows that it's hard not to crack a smile when you're teaching your dog that, "Patience is a virtue."



# Lia



**Agi Cortez** (and all of us) grinned at this picture of Lia, the surfing dog. How'd she do it? Agi explains:

“Since puppy-dom, Lia has always preferred to sit on the center console in the car, refusing to ever take the back seat. This summer, she showed us what she's spent years developing—her balance!”



# Zoey



**Kaileen Vair** has to laugh—all the toys in this picture are no longer around! Why? Because her dog Zoey “has a mind of her own and for that she is truly one of a kind. She is spunky, loves to play, and is so observant when you talk to her. She destroys every single toy she can, unfortunately, but she enjoys every minute of it.”



# Oliver

When dogs dress up, it's cause to laugh out loud. **Elizabeth Russo** says of her sixteen-year-old Oliver:

"No matter how old and frail you might be, you can still be a young soul at heart, and look damn good in a light-up tiara any day of the week if you wear it with confidence and pride."





# Ruger



“My dog has taught me that you have to be the voice of dogs, that you are their everything, and that they depend on you. . . . And also not to leave my chair, or he will take my spot!”

**Holly Ziegler**



# Bailey



Beyond making a fashion statement, **Holly Ziegler** says her dog also taught her to:

“Stand up for what you believe in.”





“My Sheltie Chula had a hankering for all things French. When she nuzzled the fake cow outside a butcher shop in Provence, even the butcher got tickled and laughed.”

**Sheron Long**



# Vickie's Pup



**Vickie Edwards'** adorable dog taught her unconditional love, apparently demonstrating here that everyone (and in this instance, everything) can use a hug!



# 5

## Oh, I See! My Dog Taught Me: **A Wealth of Life Lessons**



*Jesse Sprinkle's pup*



# Oreo



“Meet Oreo—he is an awesome doggy. He is always doing something crazy and silly. He taught me to appreciate things I love. For example, he has a great love for toys and, better yet, tearing up toys. Every toy I have ever given him he tears into small pieces, but recently I got him a red bouncy ball and he treats it like a baby. Oddly, he wouldn't dare to rip up this ball because he loves it so much. So, from him I'm learning to cherish things in life no matter how small that object is.”

**Shanell Arevalo**

## Appreciation





# Miss Tillie

“My Miss Tillie has taught me many things. Mainly, I have learned to embrace the power of silence. Listening is hard work. Many people spend more time waiting for their turn to talk than paying attention to what others are telling us.

“Our dogs, however, are never waiting to talk. They simply cock their heads and try their best to understand our message. Tillie included. As I talk, she simply sits by my feet, peering into my eyes, and cocking her head in silence.”

**Saddie Leist**



## How to Listen





# Bella



**Hollie Knott** had a lot of fun play time with her puppy. As she watched Bella grow, Hollie learned “to have confidence and take risks even if I mess up or make a mistake. I keep up with her, and she is always confident even when she knows she did something bad, lol. ”

## Confidence





# Hunter



"My dog Hunter taught me that even though you may have a bad past, the future can be bright, so always stay positive. "

**Carolyn O'Connor**

## Positive Attitude





# Ernie



“This is Ernie. Ernie has lost use of his back legs, kidney and bowels due to abuse. I have learned from Ernie what perseverance is all about. From struggling to getting up the ramp from the outdoors, to crawling up in the bed at night, to running through the yard with everyone else. He has taught me what the love of a dog is all about. The 'smiles' when I come in the door, to the times he rolls and rolls and gets his diaper off, runs to the diaper changing table so he can have one more massage and hug and kiss. This dog is what love is all about. ”

**Candy Oliver**

## Perseverance







"My dog Diesel has taught me so much in the small time I've had him. He has taught me that no one should be judged by the color of skin, the past, nor should any dog be judged by its breed, but by the content of its character. His heart and the love he has for people is far larger than his big ol' head. He is here on Earth to please and love."

**Camila Modica**

## Content of Character



# Rachel's Dog



"My dog taught me what patience and a little hard work and dedication can do. She teaches me more each and every day!"

**Rachel Eisenman**

## Patience





# Lola

“What I learned from Lola and all the dogs I had in my life is to accept all of life, accept treats with gratitude, to be loyal and love unconditionally.”

**Lisa Bate**



## Acceptance





# Bailey



"Always find some shade when you get hot."

**Harriet Hardy**

## Looking After Yourself





# Kelly and Cookie



“Both of my dogs Kelly and Cookie are rescue dogs. My dog Kelly taught me that a dog’s life can be completely turned around, just like a person’s life can. Kelly was a lost dog when we rescued her, and no one knew that she was pregnant. A month later, she had thirteen puppies, and we found good homes for all of them. She went from being homeless, lost, in jail (humane society) and pregnant to having a forever home with a family who loves her and whom she loves, to being a certified therapy dog and bringing joy to a lot of people. Her life showed me that things can be tough, but lives can turn around and can have a happy ending.”

**Helen Bogus**

## Life Can Turn Around





# Sadie



"Sadie turns thirteen on October 22, 2013. She has been an angel from the first day she set foot in our house. Shortly after we got her, we learned that my husband had cancer. . . . She kept my husband going for almost four additional years. After he had passed, she carried his orange hunting cap around for months. She also helped me get through the tough times that lay ahead."

**Jan Siemucha**

## Loyalty







# Robbie

"It's never too late to find your forever home, even at almost nine."

**Darlene Plowman**



# Chiquita

"Chiquita has been my best friend forever! From falling out of the truck as a puppy and getting lost, to getting attacked twice, she has taught me to never give up."

**Miranda Bruce**

# Never Give Up





# Jackson



"My dog Jackson was on death row when I arrived at the pound, literally minutes away from being put down. I couldn't leave him there, so I took him home with me. He weighed 88 pounds and seemed to suffer from anxiety and fear of strangers. After taking him to the vet and a behaviorist, we learned that he was formerly abused, that the fear related to men, and that his reactions escalated when alcohol was brought into the mix. Now, Jackson is a confident, friendly, 115-pound ball of love. He has overcome so many horrible obstacles to get to the home he's at now. Jackson has taught me to forgive and move forward. . . . Jackson showed me it's okay to keep my head up no matter what sort of wrong is done to me, and I thank him for that. "

**Lindsey Sims**

## Forgiveness





# Ziva

“Ziva has taught me that true happiness is found when you give of yourself to others.”

**Cindy Wilkinson**



## Secret to Happiness



# Photo Credits

Cover © iStock

Title Page © Jennifer Machamer

About Page © Jenna Saucedo;

© Linda South;

© Kaileen Vair;

© Bree Warner

Contents © Pat Holcomb

Page 5 © Joyce Riebe

Page 6 © Ciara Provencio

Page 7 © Frank Walker

Page 8 © Cathy Clark

Page 9 © Susan Cain; © Jenna Mason

Page 10 © Donna Williams

Page 11 © Carol Morgan

Page 12 © Amanda Roach;

© Kirsten Brand

Page 13 © Leslie Leathers;

© Deborah Rollins

Page 14 © Margaret Serafino

Page 15 © Alison Hanlon

Page 16 © Denise Fredericks

Page 17 © Barbara Covitz

Page 18 © Terina Stewart

Page 19 © Malory Mildenberger

Page 20 © Rebecca James

Page 21 © Jenna Saucedo

Page 22 © Richard Wilkinson

Page 23 © Evelyn Dunham;  
© Samantha Konrad

Page 24 © Alishia Rea

Page 25 © Barbara Newman

Page 26 © Laura Cannella;  
© Kathy Davidson

Page 27 © Shelbie Johnston

Page 28 © Denise Longley

Page 29 © Julie Cromer

Page 30 © Lauren Harris

Page 31 © Jessi Craft

Page 32 © Dezi Greig

Page 33 © Dezi Greig

Page 34 © Holly Ziegler

Page 35 © Susan Howell

Page 36 © Theresa Spaid

Page 37 © Maria DiFulvio

Page 38 © Lee McMullan

Page 39 © Bree Hayhoe

Page 40 © Dezi Greig

Page 41 © Rudy Martinez

Page 42 © Katrina Brooks

Page 43 © Agi Cortez

Page 44 © Kaileen Vair

Page 45 © Elizabeth Russo

Page 46 © Holly Ziegler

Page 47 © Holly Ziegler

Page 48 © Sheron Long

Page 49 © Vickie Edwards

Page 50 © Kim Sprinkle

Page 51 © Shanell Arevalo

Page 52 © Saddle Leist

Page 53 © Hollie Knott

Page 54 © Carolyn O'Connor

Page 55 © Candy Oliver

Page 56 © Camila Modica

Page 57 © Rachel Eisenman

Page 58 © Lisa Bate

Page 59 © Harriet Hardy

Page 60 © Helen Bogus

Page 61 © Jan Siemucha

Page 62 © Darlene Plowman;  
© Miranda Bruce

Page 63 © Lindsey Sims

Page 64 © Cindy Wilkinson

Page 65 © Carlene Harper;

© Kim Truong;

© Carol Rose;

© Holly Rohrbach



*Carlene Harper's dog Magic*



*Kim Truong's dog*



*Carol Rose's dog*



*Holly Rohrbach's dogs*

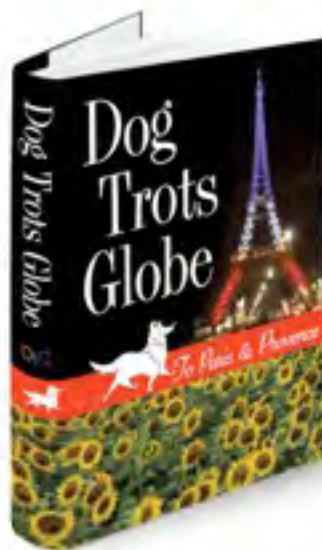


# Before You Go . . .

## Follow a Sheltie to France

Experience France from a whole new perspective! Wag your way through Paris with Chula, a 9-year-old Sheltie, on her travels from California. Follow Chula in Provence as she sniffs around the boulangeries, lavender fields, and big outdoor markets. Get the dog's-eye view. . . and a fun read!

[BUY THE BOOK OR eBook](#)



## Don't miss a moment

OIC Moments is a place to feed your mind and fuel your imagination.

Oh, I see!



[VISIT THE BLOG](#)