

Woofey

The hound dog

Written with love by

Marlene Watkins



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Preamble

My name is Marlene, and I am the author of this book.

I am a mom, a gran (called Nenna) with six grandchildren, and the proud and blessed owner of a Dachshund, the one on the cover of this book.

My dachsie, Sunshine, is the inspiration for this book. These are stories from her life and the activities she gets up to.

She is a busy little girl, and much loved.

I hope you enjoy reading about Woofey as much as I loved writing about her. I am writing this book under another name, Woofey, just in case Sunshine feels a little embarrassed. So let's not tell Sunshine about that, so she thinks it is about another dog, Woofey.

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Introduction



I am going to share snippets from my life with you dear reader. I have an extremely exciting life, full of joys and experiences, and I thought that maybe, just maybe, you would like to share bits of my life too.

Life can be so exciting, but it is really what you make of it. If one decides to be an unhappy fella, then so will one's life be. I am truly fortunate in that my life is great. I wake up every day with a smile on my face, and I look forward to another day of discovering new and wonderful things.

O dear, I believe I have been rude. My mom teaches us to introduce ourselves when new people come to our home.

My name is Woofeywoof, but you can call me Woofey. My second name is -

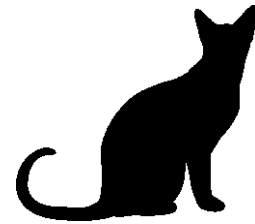
O never mind, you do not need to know that.



When people visit, I give them my paw.

My brother and sister offer their paws too. Yes, I have a brother and 2 sisters, but Kitsy (that cat!) never even greets anyone until they have sat down. And then she does not always greet people.

She is not like us; she is an outcast. I suppose that is not right to call your sister that, but she is not my best friend!



She thinks she owns the place. Kitsy has attitude! She walks around as if she has a nice smell under her nose. When she has a bad day, she even gives me a smack when I walk past her. She can be very mean, and very unfriendly. She is very temperamental, at least that's what Kurt says.

My brother, Kurt, and sister, Gretl, go to school down the road. Most of the time they get on with each other, but sometimes, I think they don't like each other too much, then they also become like 'outcasts.

My Dad is a doctor who looks after children, and my mom is a teacher. She teaches children who are in High school. I think that is like a house with lots of stairs, or else why would they talk about a high school? Do you know?

I love them all very much. And I do love Kitsy. There are times when she stands back and allows me to eat HER food when I give her 'that certain

smile'. This is the one reserved for special occasions, like to say thank you to Kitsy or to tell the dogs next door to push off or else! It works like a charm - on Kitsy!

The dogs next door do not always get the idea; they think I am displaying them my strong teeth to show off. That's okay. I know my teeth are strong, you should see me when mom gives me one of those big bones that she buys from the (oh I SO don't like to say this name!) vet (ugh!). I munch and crunch and bunch it into my mouth. Yummy! The problem is when I just cannot finish eating it because I get too tired. Then – I must find a place to hide it away. I do not like to share the bones I get, because these are mine!! And no-one, but no-one may have them!

So now you know something about me. Yes, I am adopted, and that's wonderful too, because mommy and daddy explained to me that they especially specially chose me. They searched and searched until they found the perfect pup,



And that was ME!

I went to karate!

Yes! Kurt said he wanted to tame with to class, and Mom said I could go. So, Kurt put on the lead. I hate my lead! I love to go walkies but when the two leggeds put it on they push it over my head, and I really do not like that part. Why do they put on a harness - the thing that goes over your body? Butch next door has a very nice collar, and his Mom just hooks on a lead. I'VE SEEN IT.

Mom told Gretl it is better for a dachshund to have a harness. She told her about dachshunds that have long backs and fat tummies and that makes their backs crack, and then they must go to the vet (that is an awful word!). Sometimes they must have an operation and lie in the hospital for an awfully long time, like days! Yuck!

I have a very strong back and I have the tiniest tummy, so I do not want the harness thing. I do not like the vet though, and I do not want to lie in the hospital for a long time, so I must admit that once the harness is on, it feels quite nice. I do not feel like I have a choker on my neck. Oh well, I suppose it is not too bad. I must just learn to close my eyes and hope they put it on quickly.

Anyhow, off we went, Kurt with his funny white clothes with a belt that is a different colour. I walked next to him with my head held up high and I did not allow any of the other dogs to make me feel bad. Sometimes they bark funny sounds at me, you see.

We got to the hall, and there were lots of children. I love children, I said hello to nearly all of them. Then this man came in and shouted a funny word, like 'Sei rest' or something, then 'Heisoku', and I got such a fright I started barking. Kurt was very cross - I think he wanted the man to stop shouting. And then I thought Kurt was shouting at me. At me?!

I thought that man was going to hurt the children; he was kicking and shouting, and I was scared for the children. See, they had all become my friends, I had said hello to everyone, except the shouting man. I know it is my job to save the people I love.



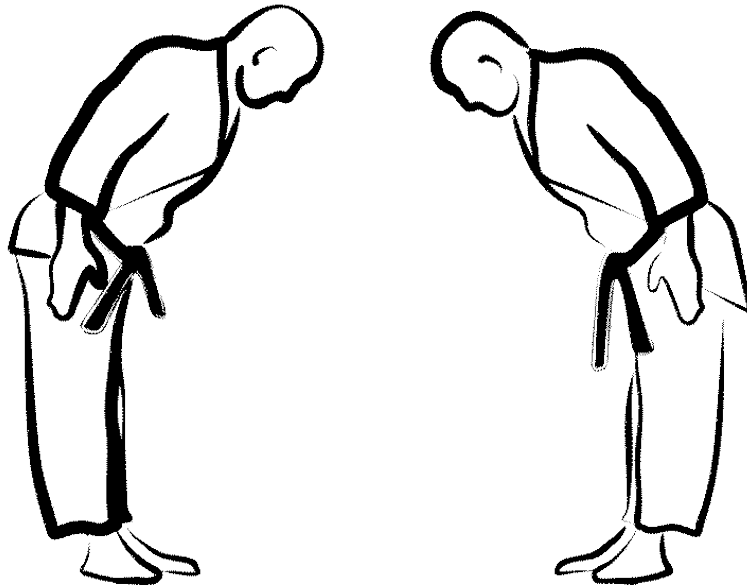
But then I saw that is the way the class goes. Even Kurt and the children started shouting. They stamped their feet, kicked, and shouted at the same time.

Goodness me, but they made a big noise.

I sat against the wall. I was scared they might kick me, and the funny words were, well, funny!

And then we came home, and Kurt told Mom all about how I barked, and I felt all embarrassed. But Mom said I probably just wanted to protect the children, and she patted me, and loved me, and all was fine.

I love my mom.





It is ballet today.

I know this not only because I am a dachshund and super clever, but Gretl puts on these pretty clothes where I must not jump up against or else I get into huge trouble from Gretl – and Mom!



Mom combs Gretl's hair and she says 'ow, ow ow Mom!' Then Mom puts this stretchy thing in Gretl's hair and fastens her hair in a funny shape. It looks like a doughnut – woof woof (that is how I laugh, woof woof)

So today Gretl said, in that voice she saves for when she wants a treat;

"I want to take Woofey to ballet, mom." Mom then grew a frown on her face.

"Why can't I? Kurt took Woofey to karate..... Mom! Mom!"

So, this is the part where Mom says "Gretl! Stop that". I was waiting for that.

I am clever, so I know what happens after the '*Gretl begging sound*'.

I get that same sound from Mom when I ask nicely at the table - 'Woofey! Stop begging'.

BUT can you believe it; Mom then said I can go.

She must have thought that perhaps I will look after Gretl and keep her safe. Now I have never been to ballet, so I really did not know what to expect. But I was excited because I was going with my loved ones. They put on my harness (yes, I did close my eyes) and off we went.

First Gretl helped me to climb into the car. As Mom drove off, I looked out of the car window, and my ears wave up and down. I really love to ride in the car.

It was not long and then out we jumped at the hall. I nearly fell on my head, because the car is extremely high, and in any case, I was in a big hurry. I did not want Gretl to leave me behind.

There were lots of little girls all dressed the same as Gretl. They were giggling and jumping up and down and spinning around. I also spin around sometimes when I try to catch my tail, but my tail is too fast for me, and I get very dizzy.

We went into the hall and there was a lady saying '5, 6, 7, 8' and everyone started to jump and spin.

Then the teacher lady said, 'Now, with music' and the pianoist lady started to play. I love to listen because it makes me think of Kurt and Gretl. They also play the piano and you know I love them very very much. I went and sat by the piano and watched Gretl jump up and down. And I could see why the girls were doing all those things outside - they were practicing for class.

I sat very quietly because this teacher was not shouting like the sensei at the karate. All the little girls were smiling and laughing and jumping. I also wanted to jump but I was scared that the little girls would jump on me, so I just listened and loved the music and the children.

I hope I can go again. It was a lot of fun.



My cousin is coming to play.



Yippee. Her name is Bonni. She is a bit taller than I am, and she is not the same colour. So, we are a little different, but we are the same.

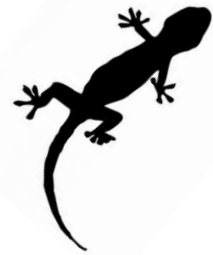
I know dogs cannot see all the colours that people can, and most of the time it is a rather faded colour. Anyway, that is what Kurt was reading in that book, and he was telling Gretl about me, and what I can see and cannot see. That book thinks it knows, but I know better. I can smell when my cousin comes; I do not even have to see her. I was waiting at the gate for Bonni, and waiting and waiting, and then I heard the car. I started jumping up and down because I was so excited.

And then they were here – at the gate.

Bonni jumped out first, and we did the 'waggy tail, how'd you do, missed you, where you been lately, what did you have for lunch, glad to see you' bit. We do this every time because we are happy to see each other.

We ran around in the garden, and I showed Bonni the new holes I had made in the lawn; and then I told Bonni about the lizard family that moved in under the tiles, and we ran to the place, so I could show her.

When Mr. and Mrs. Leezardus Uglius felt our running paws on the grass, they ran away, but not before Bonni also got the whiff.



Bonni started to scratch the grass so we could build a tunnel under the tiles.

I get into trouble when I do that but Bonni is a guest, so I suppose she is allowed?!



Just then Mom shouted 'Bonni, no!'

Oh dear, seems it is something we must not do. We are obedient, so we listened, and did as we were told.

We ran around playing catches, and leaps, and jumps, and tried to catch our tails. Then we went back to the tiles and looked again. There was Mrs. Leezardus Uglius peeping out at us.

Do you know - she even stuck her tongue out at us?

We got so excited and we were barking and bouncing, but she knew our noses could not fit in under the tiles. And I am sure she heard Mom telling us to stop digging (and let me tell we, we dachsies just love digging!)

It was such a short visit when Bonni's mom called her to come. But secretly I was happy. I was happy that we had a visit, and that we could play and chase (almost) the lizards, but mostly I was happy that I could go to sleep on my blanket. I was very tired.

When everyone had left, Kurt came over to me, and covered me with my favourite blanket, the one with the holes (which I made myself even if I must say so myself!).

I hope they come again soon.



We're going to the beach;
We're going to the beach!



I do not know what it means but everyone is so excited. I can just feel it in my bones – I am good like that you know?! Mom is putting all kinds of stuff in the basket, and Dad is packing things in the car. Gretl and Kurt are running up and down the passage shouting, 'We're going to the beach; we're going to the beach'.

I have never been to this beach place, but it must be a really fun place if so much is happening before we even leave home, and I so hope that they are going to take me too. Everyone is so busy running around collecting stuff. Kurt is even doing some karate moves, and Gretl is dancing all around the place.

They then all jumped in the car; I almost thought I may have to stay at home, BUT I am going too! We rode and rode and rode. Gretl asked a whole lot of times 'when will we be there?' and 'how far still before we get there? ', and 'is it still extremely far?' which I was glad of, because I was also wondering!

Kurt started tickling Gretl and she was laughing and then she tugged at his ear, and they started arguing. I jumped on the back window, and Dad said, 'Stop it Gretl, Stop it Kurt, and sit still!' They were really misbehaving not me though; I was really good minding my own business.

After what seemed like an awfully long time, almost like forever, we were there. I smelt this strange smell, and then heard this noisy sound, and then the doors opened, and everyone jumped out and ran!

I ran too, I was not going to be left in the car! I felt this funny sinky ground under my feet, and I it was scratching my tummy! And then, there it was, just over the hill, this noise, and this stuff that was coming to us and then running away.

We all ran and put our feet in. It was water! And it was so nice. It was cold, and wet, and whenever I barked, the water ran away, but then it came back and chased me. It was such a fun game.

Then Kurt and Gretl changed clothes and ran into the water And they disappeared. When the water came to chase me, I could see them but then they disappeared again. I loved the game. I started running in further - but

not too far. One time a whole lot more water came and rolled me in the sand. I jumped up and barked at the water and it ran away again.



Then after a while, we all sat on the blanket and mom opened the basket, and I got a sausage. What fun. What fun.

Then we had another swim and before I knew it was time to go home. We all jumped back in the car, and everyone was singing, laughing and happy.

And every now and again Gretl would ask 'Can we come again Dad?' and Dad would say 'Yes' and then Kurt would ask 'When?'. I also asked with a 'woof woof'. I hope it is soon again.

Woof Woof!





Getting ready

So, this morning I watched my mom get dressed. I am so glad do not have to do all those things. You know take off the nighty - which has my smell all over - go to the shower (thank goodness today she did not take me with, but that is for another time).

In the shower she puts this stuff on her facecloth, and then she rubs it all over her body. She told me that some people do this body brush thingy before they bath. She says it is for the lumps, no sorry, the lymph. Must be some kind of fairy that lives in the brush and then goes into her body via the brush?!

I much prefer it when she brushes me with the dry brush. That is SO Yummy. I could almost purr. But the two leggeds like Mom and Dad and the children have these strange quirks, funny things that they do.

Anyhow back to the shower where after she puts all the stuff on her, she washes everything off again - and then dries herself without rolling on the grass, or the carpet, or the couch.

My most favourite rolling place is that patch where the dead frog lies.

No, I did not kill it... it was the cat! But rubbing and rolling on dead things is so wonderful and smelly. AND I get good exercise. This is something that the two-leggeds just do not get. They just do not understand. As soon as they smell my perfume, they want to bath me! And I hate bathing (not really I just like the chase and catch game before the bath - now that is the fun part, the best part!)



What is that you are asking? Why do I roll on the dead things? Well, it is so I can get the 'chase and catch'. I love that game, the one before the bath.

Sometimes my mom takes me into the shower to put the smelly stuff on me. In the shower it feels like rain except I cannot run away from it. There's no indoors, no umbrella to hide under.

Then mom puts this smelly stuff on me - not at all like that lovely aroma from the dead frog (it was the cat!) I cannot explain to you what it feels like to roll on that crumbling stuff and when you scratch your back on it ooo it smells like heaven. I just do not understand my mom!

This is Me!



We went for a walk yesterday. That was fun. All the silly dogs rush to their gates to say "Bark bark you are stupid and ugly, and your breath smells' but I know they are jealous because I'm going for a walk and they are not. Poor silly billy things!

I always hold my head up high when we walk past. That makes them even more jealous. They shout at me - "you're a nerd!" "Your mom's ugly' (when they say this I get SO ANGRY, but my Mom just says "You know who you are my Woofeywoof, so no one can make you feel bad unless YOU let them."

SO then I just up my nose a bit more, straighten my shoulders and say "I AM ME! I do not have to be anything else! I know who I am.

I am Woofey the brave, the clever, the loved, so who cares what anyone else thinks.

I will not give permission to any dog, or cat, or frog, to make me feel bad. I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!



I must confess that there are times, like when a dog is bigger than me, that I almost think they are more handsome, cleverer, or better, but that is just almost.

I did not roll on the smelly frog when we got back home. I was feeling really strong, so I did not need an extra smell to make me feel Big.

p.s. have I told you that I am a miniature dachshund - we rock! Yes, we roll too, woo-hoo, but – we ROCK!



Something really dangerous



Last night something really dangerous happened.

I am the only one in the house to protect my family, but I must say that Kitsy helped last night. I was a little terrified – just a little. You see, I was sleeping between mom and dad (I must do this in order that they do not fall off the bed. That way I can quickly wake them up in case, just in case they do not wake up in time.)

Well, we were all sleeping, but I must say that I always sleep with one eye and one ear open so I can hear and see if anything untoward should happen.

First it was my one ear ... funny; sometimes it just jumps up on purpose without my asking it to!

And then I had to creep from the blankets, in the cold, I might add, and then my one eye saw it.

My other eye caught up soon after - I saw two little beady eyes! Boy was I scared! I mean scared - no I mean, okay, I was terrified. I am THE protector

and I was ... all alone. Now I know that dachshunds are very courageous, brave and daring, so I talked to myself ... 'Woofs you are a wonderfully brave, highly clever and intelligent (yes I know they mean the same thing, but I needed both words at the time!), and I am so proud of you. Your bravery and your courage go back a long way in your ancestry, so you are fearless!'

By now I was beginning to feel stronger and just then Kitsy arrived. She saw the beady eyes and she pounced. It is not that she is braver than me, but she had not been looking at those eyes for as long as I had. I heard a squeal, I saw a flash, and something disappeared under the door. Kitsy said it was a mouse. I had never seen a mouse before, so maybe that is why I also was *slightly* fearful. Did you know that when we are unsure of something, we could feel apprehensive? It is totally normal I understand.

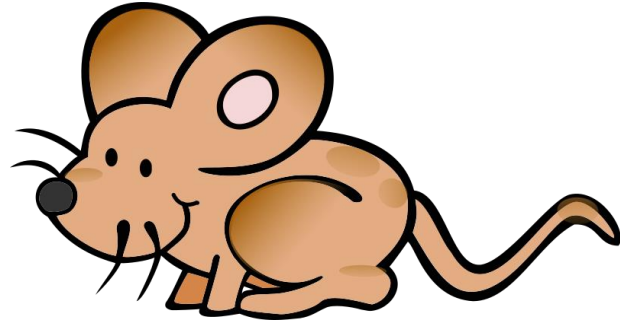
Kitty said she grew up with mouse stories, so she knew what it was, and I do not need to feel ashamed.

Me? Never! But she was trying to be nice - for a change!

So, the mouse has crept away to wherever it lives. But Kitsy guards the area; she reckons it will probably come back.

I hope not. Maybe next time she will not be around, even though she says it is a small mouse! And me, I just would not know what to do with it. After all it is not as if it is a lizard, or a frog

....



Today I had ice cream.



It was my first time. Ooo and how yummy that was.

After our walk, my mom gave me a lick. At first I was not sure. Pink stuff?!

Not brown or white like meat? No way. But Mom was licking this stuff and smiling so I thought, 'okay she has not died or bent over with tummy ache, so - because I am a brave girl - I ... took a lick".

O My Word.

Can you believe?! It was marvellous! I loved it! I took a lick. And then another! And here I am loving the taste. It almost seemed like I was not hot anymore from the walking. It was such a great taste. It was yummy.

Swimming lessons



Hoo boy was I in trouble! Gretl and Kurt go to swimming lessons down the road. Not far. They usually close me in the room because I just lurve to swim!

This time they were arguing about something, and it is usually silly. I know this, because Mom says, "Stop being silly!"

Anyway, they forgot to lock me in prison, the place where I must wait until they open the door for me to come out!

So, after they had left, I left too and headed for the swimming pool. I do not need lessons - I know how to swim! SO, I get to the pool and there is this lady with green hair, shouting 'breathe, and arm, and breathe... (I know it sounds funny to think someone can have green hair, but it is the water from the swimming pool that makes the hair go green - you can ask Mom! She explained to Gretl about chlorine and so on).

Well this lady has green hair from the Chlorine in the pool, is the coach of the swimming team which I only discovered later, but I saw Gretl splashing in the water, I got such a fright so I jumped in the water to save her, I am the one to look after the family. I am the only real protector of our household. That funny lady with the green hair was after all shouting breathe breathe and it is very scary. I could not understand why she was not helping poor Gretl. I began to think she is the lady from the story that mom sometimes reads to us about Gretl and Hansel and the gingerbread house.

Then suddenly this became a problem. Kurt jumped in the pool in the deep end, he was spitting and shouting 'Woofey, Gretl, glug (don't know what that means but I have heard the word/sound before). So now I could not think who I should be helping. I am only one and now I had to help two, and I was getting tired because that pool was much further to swim in than the one at home.

Next minute the green lady jumps in the water, grabs me and throws me out throws like in chucks and there I am shaking myself and getting rid of that awful water. I had swallowed some so I know it was awful.

Gretl and Kurt came to sit next to me, and they were crying, and the green lady was shouting even louder. Now she was not the coach who had been coaching, she really was almost like the gingerbread house lady. Some words that I did not recognize!

We all went home. As we walked Gretl and Kurt were being really really silly. All I wanted to do was to rescue Gretl. Turns out she did not need that after all. I felt really foolish! I should have checked and thought before I jumped in, and as Gretl explained to me later, she is in the swimming team, so she can swim very well.

Also, Kurt told me to never ever jump into water to rescue someone. You need to find a stick or a tube, but you should never jump in on your own. That way you can drown and the person you are rescuing can also drown because they are so frightened.

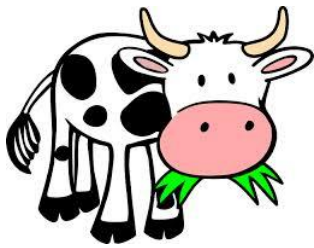
Next time they go, I will not mind them shutting me in the room. I have learnt my lesson!

Auntie M's farm



We went to Auntie M's farm. That was such fun! Not only plain ordinary lizards like those at home, but different coloured ones. Some big, some small! What fun! I even forgot about the family.

And then suddenly in front of me, was this huge thing. White with black stuff



on it, and it makes this sound like a mmmmmooooo or something like it. It had grass hanging out of its mouth and it looked at me funny.

I have never seen such a huge thing before. It kept following me. I barked and barked, and it looked at me like 'SO what's your case mate?!'

But that is not all, these smaller things arrived. They look almost like this huge thing, but with shorter legs. This white thing made horns at me when I barked. This thing ran towards me, I turned and ran.



I am not scared, but when it chased me, I thought I had better go to Mom and tell her about the scary thing. On the way I did not even have a chance to look for lizards because I was running so fast, when suddenly there was a bigger and taller skinny thing with l-o-n-g legs in front of me. I ran straight into its leg.



It said 'hay- hay-hay, who are you neigh' at least it spoke! It was not ugly with me at all, but my head was a bit sore. Then it turned and went clip-clop away.

All these things were too much for me to take in. My brain was feeling very full. I needed a rest, so I lay under a tree and fell fast asleep.

When I awoke it was getting dark and I did not know where the family was. I could not see the house; I could hardly even smell where it was. My heart started to beat faster, and I could hardly breathe. I remembered what my mom said 'if you feel scared, stop and breathe. Say a prayer and know that you are loved'.

I heard Mom's voice in my head while I was saying my prayer, I heard her voice, and then suddenly it was not just in my head, it was in my ears. I was sure it was an angel. And then I knew ... it was Mom! She was calling me, I heard Kurt's voice. Gretl and Dad were also calling 'Woooooooooo- fey, Woofeeeee.

I am loved! I followed the voices with my excellent ears... and found them. I was soo happy! I learnt so much on that day.



I am going to a Carnival!

The family said I can go too.

What is a carnival you may ask? I do not actually know, but I am going to find out.

Kurt says it has tents and things, that there are balloons and candy floss.

Now me, I do not like balloons. Once when Gretl was a bit smaller, she had a party and there were balloons. I had a balloon and I thought it was a ball; so, I grabbed it, and it broke. It was such a loud B A N G. I got such a fright and Gretl started crying to mommy saying that I had broken her balloon.

It was not nice at all. So, I do not like balloons okay.

Off we went to the Carnival. There were so many people walking around and talking. Some were eating that sticky stuff, that pink stuff on a stick. I cannot remember the name, maybe you can help?



They were eating popcorn - I do like popcorn!



Others were running around with spray cans, like the

ones Dad uses to shave with. It is also white, but the blobs are much smaller.

There were clowns and people with awfully long legs; Kurt said they were walking on stilts, long poles that made their legs longer. And there were jumping castles like the one Kurt had for his party.

There was a magician who made bunnies disappear and come back again. It was big fun. I especially liked it when the children dropped their hot dogs on the grass, and when the popcorn bounced on the grass.

So, I ran around with my nose to the ground. Before you knew it, I had run right through the tunnel under the tall, tall man's legs - and then oh dear, he nearly lost his balance. I also got a fright, so I went and sat under a tent and waited for Kurt and Gretl.

I could see lots of things from there, but because my tummy was so full, I was simply happy to lie and wait. They played for a very long time. Kurt slid

down the slide and screamed so loudly and laughed. And Gretl told her friend that I was a wonderful friend and the best dog in the world.

I felt all warm and fuzzy almost like the bunny in the magician's hat.

Mommy was so excited. She had been shopping, and she found a new food for me. The dog on the front is so handsome, when I saw his picture my tail just wagged. The picture on the packet shows a lovely lawn and a group of doggies all looking at the food.

Well Mom could not stop talking about how nice it looks and it must be particularly good and all the vitamins in it and the proteins and and and.... I was also excited. Imagine, with all that stuff and the happy dogs, I could not wait to try it, to taste this lovely new food.

They turned on the TV, and there it was! Can you believe it?! Mom's special food for four legged children! Well I never! And the handsome dog was running around and jumping in the air, and the other little dogs were scampering around. The grass was so green, and the sky so blue and the flowers were so beautiful. And the song the dogs sang was so nice "Just for doggies big and small, this will make them grrrrr -ow!" (and they lifted up their lips and showed their teeth and then a big smile) "Every doggie has his

day and Wiggle Waggle makes his dreams come true” and then the doggies looked up in the sky and it looked as if they were thinking about big bones, trees, fire hydrants, running on the grass, playing with a FRISBEE, and the funny looking one with the ribbon in her hair was looking in the sky and thinking about a kind of a style for her hair.

Funny hey?!

So, after all this, the pictures, and the song and all, Mom put some food in my bowl and the whole family stood around to watch me eat. That was so cool.

SO, I walked up to the bowl, but on the way, I got this strange smell in my nose. I thought maybe, just maybe Kurt had eaten something funny. BUT let me tell you my friend, when I reached my bowl - ugh, that was the smell! I nearly did a huge vomit.

It was the food, horrible, awful, and disgraceful! I just knew those dogs on the TV were lying when they sang that stupid song. No way! I could not even pick up one little piece of that food. And the whole family was watching me. I felt really bad, but I just could not even taste it... and I was so hungry!

I just did not know what to do. SO, I lay down on the floor on my tummy and just cried. I could not help it. When mom saw how bad I felt she gave me some of my old food. There was just enough for me. That was it! Mom said she is taking the food right back to the shop, and boy was I glad!

Thank you



Every morning when I wake up, I say 'Thank you'.

Thank you that my eyes opened, and sometimes I even listen to the birds sing.... without wanting to catch one. See, it is especially important to be grateful, and to notice the special things and people in our lives like my Mom and Dad, and Kurt and Gretl. I have a nice bed to sleep on and even a blanket.

When I feel really happy in my heart, I even say thank you for the cat! The birds that sing when it is so cold made me think they are so brave when it is so cold outside. It makes me have respect for them. But it does not mean I cannot or will not chase them, and if I catch one then they lost the game.

So, this morning I was lying so nice and snug in mommy's bed, when they told me to go outside because they were all going to Gran for the day. I just hate it when they put on that horrible alarm. I also hate the noise it makes. It is just horrid. So, I go out and hope it does not go off.

Bye bye they all said, and my heart was very sore. I know how to make my tail hang down, and I also know how to make that sad face. I am sure you have seen one. I waited and waited and waited and waited, and eventually they came home. I was so incredibly happy. And do you know what; Gran sent a big bone for me to chew on. That was so fun. I could not even finish it, so I had to hide it where no one else could find it - that was one thing I was not going to share, even if sharing is caring!

I am such a lucky dachsie, and I love my life.



Tree planting day



Today it was tree planting day at school.

Did you know that trees make oxygen and that helps us all to breathe? That is what Kurt was telling mom when he came home from school.

His teacher, Mister Gray, told them about green leaves and plants and how they make fresh air for us to breathe.

That is genuinely nice because I love to breathe.

When I run super-fast, I breathe very quickly, and sometimes I get this little prick in my side. I do not know why that happens. Do you? And when I run a lot even my head hurts, and sometimes my tummy too. Kurt was telling mommy something about the air and how important it is to breathe properly. He spoke so much about breathing that I got quite muddled up with trying to think what he was saying.

I thought maybe there was not enough air for everyone to breathe and because I am so short maybe it does not get all the way down to me, because the bigger people breathe it all up. But Kurt told mom because

there are trees and plants working hard to make oxygen, there is enough air for all of us, even me. So, all the time when I was thinking I am getting left over's, I was getting the real deal.

Amazing.

So, dad asked mom to get us a tree and we planted one in our garden so we could help the oxygen and the sky and the world. Dad and Kurt dug a deep hole, and they put the tree in the hole, and then dad said mom could put the first spade full of sand in the hole. It was like a real tree planting just like I saw through the fence at school when they Mister Gray planted the tree.

It was such fun. Even Kitsy came to look at what was happening.

My friend Butch from next door also came to see, and when it was done, he watered it! Boy dogs do that you know.

There is a storm on the way



The other night, I was just dozing on the front step when suddenly all these things came flying by. I thought they were the fairies like Tinkerbell that Gretl talks about, the ones in that pretty book. It is about *Peter Pan and Wendy*, a book written by J M Barrie.

I love that book, especially when Mommy reads it as she sometimes does.

The 'fairies' were trying to get into the house. I heard Dad saying, 'there's a storm coming'. I think the fairies were all scared. Golly.

They flew around and as they flew their wings started falling off - probably from the huge fright. I was not scared, but these things were so scared they lost their wings. I do not get scared at storm time, because that is when I cuddle up with Kitsy, or Gretl or Mom. I like that.



I used to get scared when the loud thunder banged in the sky. And that bright light that ran all over the sky also used to give me a fright.

I would run under the bed and cover my ears. But now, I am fine. I am big now, so the sounds do not scare me. I know it just means we are going to get rain, and rain is good for everyone.

Also, the tree we planted.

So, the 'fairies' were dancing, and I saw them on the floor - no longer fairies, but creepy crawlies. How yummy because I caught one! Buttery butter yummy yum. I just had to taste.

That is also what I am there for; to clean up the floor.

So I did.



Bring your pet to school

Today was 'Take a pet to school' day. Ooooh I looked so smart! I was bathed and dried and my fur shone. I am sure it shone so brightly that the children needed sunglasses!

It was a nice treat. Gretl put on her gloves and gave me a massage. It was so incredibly good. Everyone admired me and how shiny my coat was. I even got a new harness - with diamonds.

Off we went to school. And Kurt and Gretl even argued about who should hold my lead. I felt so important. I just love attention. We walked into the school grounds and I held my head and tail up extremely high, because I knew how important I am. There was Jock, my friend from across the street, and Pops, the tall spotted one, from the corner house, and Sally with two pink bows in her hair. I did not even know that she had eyes really, because they were always covered up.



We stood in a long row, and the bell rang, and we all marched into the classroom. I walked smartly next to Gretl, but there were some dogs who had to be dragged - how embarrassing!

Jessica brought her bird with yellow feathers, and all it did was say 'Polly wants a cracker', and 'helloooo'. Noisy bird!

James brought a snake, and Meggie brought her cat. It had to sit in a cage, but every time I looked it was sleeping. It missed all the fun.

Charlie brought a chameleon and it kept on changing colours, like it was wearing a new coat. Really strange!

At the end of the day we had learnt quite a lot about pets and how to look after them. Well anyway, that is what Gretl told mom. When we arrived home, I was given a clean bowl of water and some food. I learnt that a dog and a cat are not the only kind of pets you can have, although I am sure that having a dog like me is the absolute best pet to have. Woof woof!

I have shared quite a lot of history with you, and I hope you enjoyed learning a little bit more about me, and my beloved family.

If you enjoyed the story, you can let my friend know at marlenejw@icloud.com.

She would love to hear from you..... and

So would I!

Have a nice day

Love from me, Woofey