

Dogs Are People, Too!

Faith R. Foyil

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An ominous grey sky did not deter my dog Buddy and me from enjoying the recent Tyler State Park Fifth Annual Greyhound Freedom 5K Run organized by Citizens Against Greyhound Racing.

At least twenty of the fifty or so participants also brought their dogs, which afforded Buddy numerous opportunities to sniff the butts of many Greyhounds, Poodles, Labradors, Chihuahuas, Golden Retrievers and even a few surprised joggers.

From the human/humane perspective, I knew we were helping raise awareness and maybe even some money for a worthwhile animal cause. I'm sure all the other people there, folks of all nationalities, ages and sizes, joined with me in approaching this meaningful event with the same heartfelt objective:

RUN WAY FASTER THAN EVERYBODY ELSE AND WIN A NEAT PRIZE

Actually that wasn't true since dogs weren't allowed in the 5K run. Those of us with pets had to participate in a wimpy, er worthy 3K walk instead. But that was o.k., since beautiful Tyler State Park is the perfect place for a long walk on any occasion and Citizens Against Greyhound Racing needed our support.

Watching Buddy gleefully pounce at birds and unsuspecting corgis made me think of that TV reality show called "Dog the Bounty Hunter." The show stars Duane "Dog" Chapman, who is not a dog at all, but a large, muscular human. This human dog concept might be confusing to foreign viewers, who are already wondering why there's no actual "spray" in those rub-on stain sticks we call "Spray 'n Wash."

In any case, Duane "Dog" Chapman acts very much like a canine in the way he *hunts* bad guys and *sniffs* out criminals.

Like so many of today's reality series, this show seems incredibly inane, uh, insane, uh, interesting in a surreal way. And, more to the point of this article, the similarities between "Dog" the Bounty Hunter and Buddy "The Dog" are uncanny:

"Dog" the Bounty Hunter is willing to risk his neck to capture bad guys. He shows relentless tenacity and cunning when searching for prey.

Buddy "The Dog" is willing to risk breaking his neck, (and my arm), with sudden sharp twists on the leash followed by crazy, vertical lunges up tree trunks as he fruitlessly attempts to capture squirrels. Buddy also shows relentless tenacity while waiting for meat morsels my younger son inevitably drops during dinner. The dog employs cunning when snooping into the trash can when he thinks nobody is looking.

"Dog" the Bounty Hunter sports unruly long hair that looks like it could use a good wash and comb. I do not think he smells bad, though, since he rides in a car with other people who don't appear offended at all.

Buddy "The Dog" has nice-looking hair but, in fact, does smell bad and could use a good wash, a difficult task since he is very strong, hates tubs or showers and was exiled from the professional groomers last month after displaying excess fang.

Dog the Bounty Hunter is in its third season and can be seen Tuesdays at 9 pm on A&E.

Buddy "The Dog" is also in his third year and can be seen chasing squirrels up trees in my Newtown neighborhood most any day of the week he's lucky enough to be taken for a walk.

"Dog" the Bounty Hunter was recently arrested in Mexico, where bounty hunting is apparently a crime. But he was soon back in the U.S. on a publicity tour and hopes to fight extradition.

Buddy "The Dog" was also recently detained - in my son's bedroom the other afternoon -for snarling at the Comcast guy.

I don't know about Duane "Dog" Chapman, but I'm afraid further punishment is in the cards for Buddy "The Dog."

The Comcast guy is coming back tomorrow.

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