



Dog Meadow – January 2022

Welcome to our January newsletter. It's the start of a new year, but for many, it's just another day—especially the dogs. They just want to be outside, eat, or nap. Nevertheless, we're hoping that 2022 will be a step to normalcy given the challenges we have had with the Covid Pandemic.

Thank you for being with us and supporting us and wish you all had a safe holiday season. Join us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.



A dreary New Year's Day outside our bedroom window where a terrace will be built.

TERRA FIRMA

The sunrise cover of this month's newsletter was shot on December 27th. I wake up about the same time every morning but don't get out of bed until about 6 AM. Our bedroom window faces East, and the curtains are never closed. Moonlight, as well as daylight, streams in, and on some mornings it's very bright. We like it this way. In fact, our thought is that at some point this year we will do away with the window altogether and instead have doors that will open to a terrace. As you can see by the photo we already have a porch roof right outside but I am sure that we'll have to make changes to this in order to make it work. For now, it'll have to wait until the weather warms up and our contractor is able to work outdoors again. I can't wait to see what sorts of sunrises I can capture once the terrace is built. Does anyone know a good architect?



Clockwise from Laura's left is David, daughter Jennifer, wife Jeanie.

UPSTATE STORY

I love West Side Story! The DVD sits in a Blue-ray player in the dog living room. Every now and then I play it just to watch the dancing and listen to Leonard Bernstein's score. Those who are familiar with the story know that it is based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. David "Tiger" Bean would tell you this. David played a "Jet" in the original 1961 release of West Side Story. David and his wife Jeanie own *Jeanie Bean and Family*, a cozy, country-style restaurant in Clinton Corners, NY. They only serve breakfast and lunch. On some Sundays, after the dogs have had an extensive morning workout, Laura and I head over to enjoy a light breakfast or coffee. There are always people enjoying their meals with plenty of

seating. Often you will find David walking throughout telling stories to some of the patrons, some of which are regulars like ourselves. He has written a book about his life. It's a great read with stories of his life as a child and dance, his wife and their daughter, Jennifer. From his farm life to being a pilot and his travels. Sixty years after being an original Jet, he now makes an appearance in the recent Steven Spielberg release of *West Side Story*.

If you have time, after dropping off your dog in the morning, or are in the neighborhood, head over to *Jeanie Bean* for a cup of coffee. It's nearby, and everything there is fantastic. While you're there, pick up a copy of David's book and he will happily sign it and tell you some stories.



Our Lily

It was December 26th and we were sitting down to have dinner. Midway through dinner, I noticed that Lily was laying to the left of the chair where I was seated. This was highly unusual of her since her usual state is hunting for the tiniest crumb around the floor while we eat. I needed to move her so that I could push out my chair, but 15-year-old Lily, normally quick on her feet, was a limp weight. I moved her off to the side, and soon the family left their yet untouched plates of traditional Boxing Day feast to hover around her. She didn't seem normal. I gave her a piece of Turkey, but she was unable to rise to take it. We observed her for a while, and Laura wondered if she had maybe had a seizure, which is not uncommon for an elderly dog. However, Lily does not behave much like an elderly dog. Soon it was apparent that Lily was critical, and Laura and her visiting son and daughter transported her to the ER at Guardian Veterinary Specialist in Brewster which was the only one available to see her right away. She was so limp on Laura's lap, and Laura cried frantically that she

thought Lily might not be breathing as she seemed worse and worse. Laura was saying goodbye to her and stroking her all the while, tears streaming down her cheeks. Once at the hospital, she was told that Lily had stable vital signs—even breathing and oxygen (Lily does have a lung condition) and her blood work was fine. What was it then that led her so suddenly from zoomies to collapse? Laura was encouraged to leave her there overnight so that a neurologist could examine her. We realized that night that it reminded us of what happens to a dog when they get a tick disease—usually one of the rarer ones. But we were confused because they did not mention the fever or the possibility of a tick disease. Sure enough, the next morning an internist called us and said that Lily did have a fever that was pretty high. Although her tick disease test came back negative, he believed that it was in all likelihood a tick disease, which would respond to antibiotics. She was sent home on a strong pain medicine as he noted that she had pain all over her body and a broad-spectrum antibiotic. By the end of the day, she was bouncing into the house and running around looking for treats.

This just reminds us that whenever your dog falls ill suddenly, you should always suspect a tick disease. Particularly, elderly dogs are prone to suffer acutely from these diseases. They come on suddenly and involve pain, fatigue, and sometimes loss of appetite. There is usually a fever, but sometimes not. Tick disease tests may be negative, but we've seen so many instances of vets who decide to treat as if there were a tick disease, even when there is a negative result. There are so many false negatives that you should find a vet that is willing to entertain this idea if there is no other diagnosis.

Lucky for us, our near Christmas tragedy became a Christmas miracle and we can't be happier for our lovely Lily even if we are now much poorer. Guardian Veterinary is a great hospital but it's no bargain.



Laura's winter concert followed all protocols to keep children and staff safe.

COVID!

Have you turned on the news lately? Whether it's the news or social media I am sure you've been made aware that the Omicron variant of Covid is rampant. Yet, people still think it's not real. Well, it's real. In the last couple of years, I have lost my father, a half brother, an uncle, and his wife to Covid-19. I have had cousins and friends contract it and lose many of their relatives and friends. Last year I spent many hours helping my wife Laura with remote teaching. I produced several concert videos and plays for families to enjoy. The fact that she didn't have to travel to school made me feel good and safe. Additionally, it was nice to have her home to enjoy her company. We keep wearing masks as required and continue to be careful. We have been vaccinated and received our booster shots as well.

This year they are back in the school building. Oh, boy! Then came Delta. Followed by the highly communicable Omicron variant. Well, over the Christmas Holiday, Omicron came home with Laura. Both of her children, who were visiting, were affected. The symptoms included headaches, scratchy throats, some congestion, and stuffiness. You could say they were similar to the common cold. But the proof was when the test came back positive.

Interestingly enough, both of my children did not come down with any symptoms. Neither did I. Although, I received my booster on December 29th and I did experience a low-grade fever about 24 hrs after the vaccine. So, it's hard to say if it was due to the vaccine or a Covid symptom. Regardless, I happen to be asthmatic and if I did contract the virus I am thankful that it didn't progress to something worse.

All I can say is to take care of yourselves and be safe out there.



Laura, takes a break as some of the dogs gather around.

Dog Meadow Blog

Laura Evans, Lady of Dog Meadow, writes a Dog Meadow blog entry on a weekly basis (more or less). She shares life at Dog Meadow as well as trials and tribulations in life as a whole. Every entry includes an easy-to-follow recipe at the end. We encourage you to read it ***here*** and please subscribe.

Did you know...

you can do something to help Dog Meadow? Yes, you can! And it takes less than a minute. If you follow us on Instagram or Facebook, "liking" and/or sharing our posts greatly increases our exposure and ensures that your dog will always have doggy friends to play with here at Dog Meadow.

Bookings

Please remember to book your dog's stay early at Dog Meadow. Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email. As of January 2022, we will be requiring deposits for all stays that are three (3) nights or longer. It is up to you to reach out to us if and when you are ready to book your dog's stay. Booking requests must be

made and confirmed via email. If you do not have an email confirming a reservation for specific dates, you do not have a reservation.

With that said, we remind you to make sure that your dog's vaccinations are up-to-date. We encourage you to check your records and make appointments with your dog's vet if needed to ensure that he is in good health. You can find our ***requirements*** on our website.

Finally, let's all be safe and kind to one another.



Dog Meadow asks that if you have not been vaccinated that masks be worn as recommended by the CDC when dropping off and/or picking up your dog.



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