

The Tail Wagging Adventures of Patches and Rowdy

A HELPING HAND

By Cindy Taft

One lazy afternoon, Rowdy and Patches decided to take a walk to the meadow. While Patches snoozed in the cool shade under a weeping willow, Rowdy decided to nose around. First, he smelled some sweet clover and a dandelion or two, but soon his nose led him to some wild strawberries. They tasted delicious! It wasn't long before Rowdy discovered someone else enjoying a quick treat. It was a little box turtle. "What fun," thought Rowdy. "I have found a new friend!" Upon seeing Rowdy, the small turtle quickly pulled his head into his shell and closed up tightly.

Rowdy laid down in front of the turtle. "Hi," he barked gently. "My name's Rowdy. Want to play?"

The turtle opened his shell very slowly. Could he trust this furry face staring at him? He looked friendly enough.

"Hello," he said as he eased out of his home. "My name is Chester. I was just snacking on these berries before I make the long climb up the hill. My family lives up there."

About this time, Patches woke up. As he stretched and yawned, he saw Rowdy looking down at something in the berry patch. He decided to investigate.

“Hey kid, what’s up?”

“We have a new friend,” said Rowdy. “Patches meet Chester. Chester, this is my good friend, Patches.”

Patches looked at Chester as Chester checked out Patches.

“Sorry I don’t have time to play now, but I need to start walking if I am going to reach the top of the hill before it gets dark,” said Chester. “I promised my children a story before bedtime.”

“That’s a long way for you to walk. I would be happy to carry you in my mouth if you don’t mind a little dog drool on your shell,” woofed Rowdy.

“I’m sure he can make it up the hill on his own,” Patches slowly replied.

“But I don’t mind lending a helping hand, or in this case, helping mouth. I can get him up there quicker and then he will have more time to spend with his family!”

Chester had never met a creature as caring and loving as this little pup. Rowdy was willing to give a few minutes of his time to make the journey easier for Chester and give him more precious time with his family waiting at the top.

“I would be most grateful if you would carry me up the hill and a little dog drool will really make my shell shine!”

Rowdy looked over at Patches. “Do you want to come with us?”

Patches couldn't help but smile as he watched his little friend carefully lift Chester up in his mouth.

“Sure, I'll go up with you and maybe we can roll down the hill before we head back home! Does that sound like fun?”

Rowdy nodded. With tails wagging, they started the climb. In a few minutes they had reached the top. Rowdy gently lowered his head and placed Chester on some soft moss by an old log.

“Thanks for your help,” said Chester. “Maybe we could hang out sometime?”

“We would love that,” said Rowdy. “Have a good night!”

Chester couldn't wait to tell his family about his wonderful adventure, his new friends, and the ride he took in an amazing dog's mouth! As he slowly turned to head home, the last thing he heard was a big “Yippee” as two silly dogs rolled down the hill!
