

The Aardsma Weekly

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Writer: Rachel Aardsma



Excitement



Lately, we haven't had much excitement around our house. But, to our surprise and in a most unexpected way, excitement arrived on Thursday.

On Thursday afternoon, while working outside, I noticed a wobbly, sick-looking dog out in the middle of the cornfield near our house. It looked very sick, and Beka said that it was probably dying of thirst. We also were worried that it might have rabies.

After some discussion with Matthew over the phone, Mom called Animal Control. But before she could locate an available dogcatcher, the dog left.

We all forgot about the dog, but after supper, Caleb burst in, crying, "The dog's back!" The dog was looking even worse than before, laying in the other field near our house. Matthew said that it was a Great Pyrenees, which was dying of thirst and starvation.

Mom called Animal Control again, and this time was more successful. She announced that the dogcatcher would arrive at 8:30 p.m.

We all waited anxiously until 8:30, when the dogcatcher of Loda and another dogcatcher arrived and drove up until they were just opposite the sleeping dog. They shot it with a tranquilizer dart, but it ran across the road into the other field.

Matthew and the two dogcatchers approached it with big spotlights (it was dark now), but the dog got up and ran off. They lost it in the darkness. One of the men left after setting a big live trap near our property, while the other did some searching around in the dark field. He failed to find the dog, and then drove off as well.

We all thought the dog had died during the night, but when the dogcatcher arrived early the next morning to check the trap, he spotted the dog in the field. He chased that dog all the way across two fields, behind the large cemetery near us, and around back into our field again. To our surprise, Mr. Dog was fresh and spirited now, zooming around at about 35 miles an hour, obviously not rabid.

The dog lay down behind a hill in the field. The dogcatcher left then, planning to return that night for another try.

It began to rain heavily, and the dog wandered around our property, eating grass, before disappearing. Matthew found him in the pen of Beka's little lamb several minutes later. We worried that he might harm the lamb, but he was amazingly gentle towards it. He seemed to like the company! Now that we had the dog trapped, Mom began calling again to get someone to come take the dog away.

Matthew and Dad went out with some dog food to see if they could capture the dog, but he rapidly climbed out (he didn't jump, he climbed) only to climb in with our ewes and lambs. The dog began to eat the grain in the sheep trough. He was very hungry!

Then the dog climbed the other fence into the ram pen, where Matthew succeeded in feeding the starving creature two bowls of dog food, and then leashing it –which it did not like! Dad got Beka and I to help lug the huge live trap that the dogcatcher had left over to the ram pen so we could keep the dog safe and sound until the dogcatcher came to take him away. We thought the dog would resist strongly when we tried to get him into the trap, but all he required was some gentle coaxing, and in he went.

The dog is actually just a puppy, and a very friendly one. Whoever adopts him will get a frightened but friendly dog. And now since we are done with dogcatchers and dogs, we can settle happily back into normal life.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Psalm 119:1-3: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.



Bits and Pieces



It seems we've had more than our share of starving animals lately. The other day, Matthew brought home a starving baby robin that he found on the ground at the lakes nearby. He brought it home, and it is now doing well. Beka feeds it worms daily, and it lives in a wire birdcage. The robin has its feathers, and chirps and twitters all day. Timmy and Caleb go bug collecting, and feed it all the beetles, caterpillars, and spiders they can lay hands on. The little thing is adorable. Every time you walk by it opens its mouth wide and squalls loudly to be fed. Beka is enjoying raising it.



A Word About The Weather



It has been anything and everything weather-wise this week. It's shined a little, blown a little, chilled a little, and rained a little, in an effort to please everyone, evidently. We need the rain, so we appreciate that part of the weather business.



A Word Of Wisdom



There is nothing like classical music to hush little boys bent on making noise. I've tried it; it works.