



the hood.

Bald Puppies & Thankfulness
New babies & lots more to be grateful for!

HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE

All of the details on the most wonderful time of the year

Centerfold

Get to know @growing_up_shihtzu

GANGSTAS GONE GLOBAL

AN INTERVIEW FROM MOLDOVA

Fall Travels with Fen

Part 1 of an epic adventure

Learning with Logan

Training tips from a pro

COVER PUP: @campfinnegan



Sept 2020
Issue 016

@normansgang
normansgang.org

Meet
the
Team!

Edgar (Brooke)
@edgarthewheaten

Jameson (Kathryn)
@jenkinsk637

Norman (Lou & Lindsay)
@normanthewheaten

Baxter (Kim A)
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Baz (Marilyn)
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Logan (Tasha)
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Wrigley (Katie)
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the hood

The magazine for gangsters **Autumn Edition**

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@milosh.tima.wheatens
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A Letter From the **PRESIDENT**

Good Morning, Good Afternoon and Good Evening Gangsters All Over the World!

Somepawdy send help, SOS! Our co-worker keeps pooping in the office and do you have any idea how impossible it is to get anyone fired these days?!? And have you even tried to find Lysol, Clorox or paper towels?! You may have better luck searching for the lost city of Puplantis. And while finding Puplantis may be a stretch, you will not need to look hard to find furry little ones and two legged little ones within the Gang. There's a babyBOOM and puppyBOOM going on and THAT is a guaranteed smile every time!

This month on Center we have the very handsome, the very humpy, the very unique one-and-only teepee owning Skyler the Great aka @growing_up_shihtzu. A true ambassador for Norman's Gang, a writer for the Hood, a constant source of laughter and support, we are all the lucky ones to have them in our Gang so please send them some love today. And what about the Dynamic Trio on the cover also known as @campfinnegan?! Bentley owns his own ranch, Miss Dee owns whatever/whenever and Cannella, well she just won't stop horsing around - SEE WHAT I DID THERE?! From the Hood to @NormansGang to being an Ambassador, there are no words to adequately describe how grateful we are for ALL they do for the Gang. We love you all!

With Summer officially behind us, we keep hearing over and over about adjusting to a "New Normal." As if that does not come with enough anxiety, we have all been forced to adjust to new work schedules, getting back to school, the unknowns about the next flu season, the upcoming holidays, and oh yeah, let's not forget about this election here in the US. Deeeeeeep breaths everyone, deep breaths...you are going to be just fine! Don't allow the Coronavirus or the polarizing political landscape to rob you of the ability to love and be loved. Instead, let's all use this time to extend a hand, a smile and give some hope to those who truly need it. We all know someone who could use a call, a text, an email or perhaps an ancient/old school handwritten letter!

We have great news for those of you looking for a little bit of a healthy distraction in the coming months. In the next couple of weeks we will begin sign-ups for the Holiday Gift exchange! Few things to note here that we want to get out in front of. First, please make sure you are using the #NormansGang hashtag on each of your posts. This is the only requirement for joining the Gang and is the best way for other Gangsters to find you, like posts and keep in touch. It also helps us tremendously in the tracking throughout the exchange. Second, due to the size of the exchange as well as everything going on with the postal service due to Covid-19, please only sign up if you can abide by the instructions/deadlines. We do not want any Gangster left behind come Saturday, December 19th. Finally, prepare yourself to laugh, shop and have fun opening some goodies!

Stay safe, stay healthy & stay full of Love!
Norman & Co.

SEPTEMBER 2020 COVER PUPS

Meet NG #489! @campfinnegan is Miss Delaney, Bentley, Cannella the horse, & Finnegan

Hi it's me, Bentley! By now you know me as the XXS Chi with the XXL personality and spokes-gangster for my pawsome family, but did you know how we found Norman's Gang?

It was December 2018, on a dark, cold, and lonely country road - no, really, it was! We had just moved to the country, we didn't know anyone, it was dark by 4pm, and our satellite TV didn't work, so Finn and I decided to step up our IG game for some fun. It didn't take long for us to follow LOTS of wheatens and soon we saw love for Nina, Secret Stewart holiday celebrations, and a whole bunch of other daily shenanigans. All the stories were all woven with a common thread, #normansgang. We were hooked. Who was Norman? What was a PONG? We had to find out!

We were welcomed into the Gang on February 14th, 2019 - yup that's right, on Woof Day - and boy did we feel the WOOF. Over the next 6 months, we laughed, we cried, we rejoiced and we loved, sometimes all at once, like the day Mama found Finn's sister Roux and his uncle, Winston. We ate a lot of cheese, Finn did snow zoomies, I fell for my sweetheart Edna, we started running with the #NGmutleycrew and the #NGbratpack, and met so many awesome gangsters from all over the world. Life in the Hood was good!



But it was when Norman's #balddad virtually held our paws at the emergency vet on that sad sad day that Finn was called to the rainbow, that's when we knew paws down we were meant to find Norman's Gang. Mama says it's kismet, whatever that means, I just think it was meant to be! (Wait a second, did she call me a mutt?)

Anyways, gangster love gave me and Mama the strength to put one paw in front of the other. We went on some wild adventures to dognap Grady and came home with Miss Dee, we moved to my ranch and welcomed Cannella home too! Finn is still with us in spirit, I'm still sweet on Edna, Dee is crushing on Marshy Marshmallow, we have regular play dates with Logan "in real life", 3 generations of Warzalas have been added to our family tree (that's a lot of floof!), and virtual strangers have become dear, dear friends - all because of Mama Kay, Uncle Lou and Norman's Gang.

So that's it, the story of a chi, two wheaties, and a horse who joined a gang, but not just any gang - Norman's Gang! Thank you for making us feel so loved. -Bentley

Congrats & Welcome to the newest bald puppies in the gang!

Cleary Jane, sister to @tails_of_sadie_the_wheaten



Cleary Jane

DaveyLu "Squid," sister to @maxeybear



DaveyLu "Squid"



Elijah

Elijah, brother to @moose_the_wheaten_

Kellan, brother to @callmebrodybear



Kellan

Kennedy Jane, sister to @molliepop_scoutmaster_dex



Kennedy Jane

Jaxon, brother to @siroliverthnewheaten



Jaxon

Rowan, brother to @toby_wheaten

Ruby Jane Hope, sister to @jaco_grande



Ruby Jane

Thea, sister to @gandalfthegreymuzzle



Thea

Baby brother to @the_adventures_of_addie



Addie's Brother



When Strangers Become Family

Written by Kim
@toby_wheaten

We've all seen the hashtags...#MoreThanAHashtag #WhenStrangersBecomeFamily. These hashtags came to life for me in the months following the early arrival of my tiny human "belly puppy", Rowan Fox. Whether you're new to the gang or an OG, I hope my story is a reminder that Norman's Gang is a collection of some of the finest human beings I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. And the dogs are cute too, of course.

On the morning of May 16, I kissed Toby goodbye as my husband Scott and I headed out to the hospital for monitoring after a high blood pressure reading. I had a pretty unproblematic pregnancy until this point, so I thought it was just a fluke and we'd be home in a few hours. By 2:31pm that day, Rowan Fox came screaming into this wild world by emergency caesarean, 5 weeks before his due date. I'll spare you all the harrowing details of the delivery and my recovery because this story isn't about that. It's about the amazing humans in my mini group, the #NGNuggets.

In my delirium, I reached out to Tara (@frankieandfinny), our nugget mama (ambassador), to let her know Rowan had arrived and that we both had some healing to do before we could be released from the hospital. What happened next was the most beautiful display of human kindness and brought both Scott and me to tears...I'm talking full on ugly crying. Tara surprised us with a video full of #ngnuggets sending their well wishes to us, including a very special cameo by Pong himself. We were in absolute awe of the love and support from these "strangers". Watch the video at the link in Toby's bio.

The nugget love didn't end with the video. After 8 days in the hospital for me and 11 for Rowan in the NICU, we were finally home and Tara told me the Nuggets had another surprise for us. A "belly puppy" shower on Zoom! The nuggets showered us with so many thoughtful gifts including a gorgeous hand-made blanket from Dawn (@cyrusandsadie) and Rowan's very own slothy. These "strangers" suddenly became family and I've never been more grateful to be a part of this wonderful gang of dog-obsessed humans. I look forward to the day when I can finally thank my nuggets properly with big hugs and sloppy kisses (from Toby, of course) at our long-awaited nugget meetup, complete with Norman at the turntables playing our favorite song. THANK YOU all from the bottom of my heart. #NuggetLove

LEARNING WITH LOGAN

by @tailoflogan



Time to Learn The ABC's...

Ha Ha...Wait, did you think we were going to teach our dogs the alphabet? No, not today! Did you know that learning the ABC's of behaviour could help you to better understand your dog's behaviour? So, what does ABC stand for?

The ABC's of Behaviour



Antecedent
Actions, events, cues,
triggers, conditions
that came before the
behavior

Behaviour
What the dog does
in response to the
antecedent

Consequence
What happens
immediately after the
behaviour, whether it's
on purpose or not

Example 1

My dog Cyrano always runs to the door and jumps on visitors when they come in.

Antecedent
A friend knocks. Cyrano
is loose in the house. The
door opens. The friend
enters and greets Cyrano.

Behaviour
Cyrano jumps up on
the friend to greet
them.

Consequence
The friend puts their
hands on Cyrano "ok,
buddy, whoa, hiiii, yes
I'll pet you!"



The antecedent information shows us that Cyrano was moving around freely; and that the friend spoke to him, which may have increased his excitement. Let's say the behaviour we'd prefer is for Cyrano to stay in his place lying down while visitors greet him. With some changes to the antecedent, the ABC's of a dog greeting visitors at home could look like example 2.

Example 2

My dog stays lying down in his place when visitors enter and say hello.

Antecedent
The friend is arriving.
Cyrano is told to go to his place to lie down.
The friend enters and greets the people. The friend goes to say hello to Cyrano.

Behaviour
Cyrano remains lying down in his place.

Consequence
The friend pets Cyrano, who is lying down like a very good boy!



Learning the ABC's of behaviour helps us to identify opportunities to change the actions, events, triggers that may or may not support the behaviour we want. With that information, we can change those elements to support the behaviour we desire, and from there, develop a training steps – in this case, helping Cyrano to learn to stay in a down on his place when visitors enter and to remain there, while receiving attention/patting like the good boy that he is!

If you want to do some homework on ABC's, check out the reads below.

GOOD READS

- Antecedent Arrangements – Eileen and Dogs Blog
<https://bit.ly/2YNXXEp>
- The ABC's of Barking
<https://www.clickertraining.com/node/3968>
- B.F. Skinner's Contributions to Applied Behaviour Analysis (Morris, Edward, K; Smith, Nathaniel G, Altus, Deborah E., 2005)
<https://bit.ly/34R7e2B>



I'll also be posting a few of our ABC scenarios @tailoflogan in September if you want to follow along #learningwithlogandog or tag me to share your own so we can cheer you on and share with the gang!

ICYMI: Check out @what_about_bunny who has learned to use different buttons with recorded words to spell out what she wants to communicate to her family!

Greetings Gangstas!

By: @growing_up_shihtzu

I'M SKYLER SHIH TZU; HAWAII BORN AND RAISED!

I continue to expect and get a daily beach walk from our SoCal home. I started training Mom at first contact. I wrapped her about my ripped Tzu form and got the most out of her by never showing complete satisfaction. I belong to an ancient Tibetan breed whose name means "little Lion" in English – with that heritage, you know that being judgmental and demanding impeccable service comes quite easily.



"How the fluff did I end up in da gang?", you ask??? Mom started following a few Wheatens on IG before I was born - her last pup in NYC was a Wheaten rescue named Russell. She didn't previously know that we dogs have a busy social media life because... she has no life. When I came into her life, thereby rescuing her from utter boredom and lack of focus, she started my account and followed more Wheatens. Mentions of Norman's Gang kept coming up, but it seemed to be all Wheatens (duh, woman) so she didn't pursue it. I was still too young to impose my will - think... I was just discovering cheese. Eventually a few other breeds became members so we followed the instructions to become members.

I'll always remember the day I was inducted into the Eyelash Hall of Fa... uh... sorry, I tend to get really emotional about becoming a Gangsta. You see, I have never been to Sicily, nor do I have an office like Norman. When The Hood started in early 2019, and I made mom find out if I could participate being a Renaissance Tzu and all, I wrote about the human world as is relevant to – only when we understand humans can we bend them to our will and play them like a cheap violin. I also enjoy hatching haikus like we all did this past July when The Beard Turned 5 – Norman's Birthday, our National Holiday.





And that's really what the Gang is about: coming together for celebrations, and perhaps even more, at difficult times for illnesses and crossing over the bridge. We celebrate birthdays, gotcha days, and even bald puppy arrivals. We tease and dare each other like siblings and best buddies, but The Gang's strength shines brightest when one of us is in pain, physically or otherwise. We've lost entirely too many Gangstas this summer - beautiful Brooke Marie, dear Remi, and the sweetest of all, Kailee. We strive to provide love and support for each other and our extended families in any way we can, with both small and big gestures, in person or virtually, day or night. With Gangstas all over the world ranging from pups just meeting their new families, to our Senior Legends, we can always turn to the gang for pup-related information, support, cheering up, or cheering on.

I recently started Ambassador training, so I'm studying etiquette and "Cat" because several of us have feline siblings (let me tell you, the pronunciation is less than obvious...). Seriously, Norman's Gang is not just a hashtag or a silly thing humans started because they have no lives (although...). It's a family in the best sense of the term. Our motto is #LOVEWINS because it always does. I recently had the joy of introducing a couple of buddies to the Gang, and to sniff butt with two well-established members from my own state. I hope to sniff more of you in the future.



This human world is really nuts right now, so let's all stay #NGstrong!

Namaste



Baxter Wheaten at his desk in his home office, puts his ear piece in his ear. It crackles loudly and he winces.

"Hey guys...can we do an audio test please?"

"Good evening, good evening...how's the level? Good...alright..."

"Am I a go?"

"10 seconds to air."

"Coming to you via Zoom from his home in New York City..."

"Counting down ... five ... four ... three ... two ... and you're on the air Baxter Wheaten."

Announcer: "Herrrrre's Baxter Wheaten!"

"Well, good evening everybody," Baxter clears his throat and settles into his chair, crossing his paws on the desk. "It's certainly been a while. It's been a trying time for everyone, to say the least, so I hope every dawg out there is doing well. I never thought I'd still be home in September...but here we are."

"Anyhow, please forgive any technical glitches we may encounter. The team is working remotely and we're all doing our best."

"I don't know about you, but it's been both fun and trying having the hoomans around all the time, although having said that, most of the time, I just want to bite their ankles so they leave me alone. I thought the *pupparazzi* were bad...after all, you can run away from them, but the hoomans...we live in the same house so there's no escaping. How can you get away from their iPhones? They're always right there. Don't they have anything else to do? Seriously, they go out of their way to hunt you down, under the curtain, on the sofa, on the bathroom floor, under the table - it's nuts. I seem to be living my life on camera. "I may as well have a reality show. 'Keeping up with Baxter Wheaten!"

Baxter Wheaten chuckles.

"Let's see...how's the All-Star Wheaten Orchestra?"

Ba boom...boom!

"Hey Baxter Wheaten," says the saxophonist.

"You guys all ok?"

"Hangin..."

"Good to hear."

"Anyhoo, let's get going here. I have some really interesting guests today: they're three gangstas, none of them actually related, but they all live together...pretty harmoniously."

"Drumroll, please orchestra...I'm really pleased to welcome Tima, Milosh and Rudy Wheaten all the way from Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldova! Hey guys! Welcome to Gangstas Gone Global!"

"Hey Baxter!"

"Sorry we don't have a live audience...or else I guarantee you would've gotten a standing ovation."

"That's OK, we get it. It's still kind of fun to do this on Zoom."

"We are all very excited to have you here...right, orchestra?"

Orchestra plays a happy tune.

"Where is the orchestra?"

"Everyone is at their house. It's amazing what technology can do these days!"

"Including bringing you all to us from Moldova...now can you introduce yourselves?"

"I am Tima."

"I am Rudy."

"I am Milosh."

Baxter: "Tima, let me start with you, where exactly is Moldova?"

Tima: "Moldova is a small country Eastern Europe between Romania to the west of us and Ukraine to the east."

Baxter: "You close to any water?"

Tima: "No, Moldova is landlocked. We have lots of beautiful forests and rocky terrain, but no ocean or sea. The closest would be the Black Sea, but we would have to go to Romania or Ukraine to go to the beach."

Baxter: "I hear that you also have some beautiful vineyards and the wines are terrific...! Nistreana and Codru are the two main regions, known mostly for red wines."

Tima: "That is correct! And Codru is home to some of the world's largest cellars."

Baxter: "I bet they're delicious. I know the sommeliers here would love to taste them here."

Tima: "You know sommeliers?"

Baxter: "Occupational hazard."

Baxter: "Where in Moldova do you live?"

Tima: "We live in Chisinau - it's the largest city of Moldova and also the capital city."

Baxter: "And you are all Moldovan?"

Tima: "By association, but not by birth. I was actually born in Kaliningrad, in Russia. And Milosh and Rudy were born in Moscow."

Baxter: "Is there a wheaten community in Moldova?"

Tima: "Actually we are the only ones."

Baxter: "Wow! You guys must be celebs."

Milosh: "Yes we are!"

Baxter: "I was looking at some of your videos, they're amazing! Kind of professional with music and all."

Milosh: "Yeah, the momager does that."

Rudy: "Yeah...she really loves us."

Baxter: "Are both your pawrents Moldovan?"

Milosh: "Yes."

Baxter: "So they had to go all the way to Russia to get you?"

Rudy: "Our momager loves dogs. She grew up with dogs. Before us, she had two Black Russian terriers, but then she fell in love with wheatens."

Baxter: "Has Corona life come to Moldova?"

Milosh: "Oh yes..."

All three wheatens sigh.

Rudy: "As you know, Milosh and I are pretty high energy."

Baxter: "Yes, you're wheatens and that is one thing we're known for."

Milosh: "Yeah! We love zoomies...Rudy and I zoom around all the time."

Rudy: "We always try to get Tima to join in the fun..."

Tima: "You guys seem to forget that I'm 13 and a half."

Baxter: "Ah! We have an elder statesman among us...love that!"

Tima: "Thank you, Baxter."

Baxter: "So Milosh and Rudy can do all the running around."

Milosh: "Except, it's much more fun to zoom around the park. Until recently, we were stuck in the house."

Baxter: "Yeah...but I saw you guys get up to no good even in the house."

Milosh: "Hee hee hee!"

Rudy: "Ha ha ha ha!"

Milosh: "It's also our job to bring joy and happiness in our pawrents' lives especially now, because it is all so complicated and difficult."

Rudy: "Exactly! We play jokes and tricks and do silly things - and it works! It keeps our momma smiling."

Baxter: "Yeah...the hoomans need a lot of cheering up these days, so good on you all."

Milosh: "We all three have different personalities, so with all of us put together, Momma does nothing but laugh."

Baxter: "I bet...so what kind of food do you eat? What's the cuisine of Moldova?"

Tima: "Moldovan cuisine has a lot of Russian, Romanian and Turkish influences."

Baxter: "Turkish?"

Tima: "Yes...Moldova was part of the Ottoman Empire. So Sarmale leaves stuffed with meat or rice - that's very Turkish."

Milosh: "There's also Mamaliga, which is a Romanian porridge, kind of like polenta."

Rudy: "I love Parjoale...meat patties."

Baxter: "Do you guys actually get to eat all this?"

Rudy: "Yeah! We eat whatever our momma cooks - no kibble."

Baxter: "That's amazing! What about treats?"

Milosh: "We all love cheese!"

Rudy: "And...whatever our Momma is baking. She's a really good baker."

Baxter: "It sounds like an insanely good life. Play, walk, sleep, eat..."

Milosh: "Playing and eating are kind of key..."

Rudy: "Well said, brother..."

Tima: "But most important is to keep our family happy and laughing."

Baxter: "And healthy."

Tima: "That too."

Baxter: "You are such a gent, Tima. Well guys, I have to say, it's been an absolute pleasure. Your videos of all the shenanigans you get up to are just hilarious."

Milosh: "Thanks for having us on, Baxter."

Rudy: "Yeah, we were very excited when we got the invitation."

Milosh: "Rudy was so excited that he couldn't stop dancing."

Everyone laughs.

Tima: "I hope you get to visit Moldova one day, Baxter. It's beautiful."

Baxter: "It's on the bucket list, my friend."

"What a bunch of great guys. It must be a crazy household, especially with Milosh and Rudy jumping up and down all the time. But I loved learning about Moldova."

"And that's it for another edition of Gangstas Gone Global. As always, every dawg, thank you for tuning in. I look forward to the next time. See you along the trail... Until then, as ever, this is Baxter Wheaten reporting from New York."

PEANUT BUTTER & PUMPKIN DOG TREATS

Fall is on the way (in the Northern hemisphere) and that means it's time for pumpkin everything, including dog treats. This easy recipe is Baz tested and approved. In fact, he gave it four woofs after gobbling down a couple of biscuits.

Cooking tips for the humans:

The dough will seem kind of dry, but once you roll it out, the texture is perfect for cookie cutters. We were able to make about 16 treats with this recipe. Baking time may vary depending on the size and thickness of the treat. I used a dog bone cookie cutter, but you can use whatever your dog would like.

INGREDIENTS

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup pumpkin puree
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup peanut butter
2 large eggs
2½ - 3 cups whole wheat flour

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat pumpkin puree, peanut butter and eggs on medium-high until well combined, about 1-2 minutes. Gradually add 2 ½ cups flour at low speed, beating until incorporated. Add an additional ¼ cup flour at a time just until the dough is no longer sticky.
3. Working on a lightly floured surface, knead the dough 3-4 times until it comes together. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough to ¼ inch thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut out desired shapes and place on the baking sheet.
4. Bake until the edges are golden brown, about 20-25 minutes. Let cool completely.



NORMAN'S GANG HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE

Saturday, Decemeber 19th

It may only be September, but the holidays are quickly approaching! Be sure your humans keep an eye on the Norman's Gang page for all the details. You don't want to miss out!

Don't forget to use **#NormansGang** on all of your posts!

NG Grateful: Reasons to wag your tail

Family & Friends, Health, PUPPY, Minions, and Snoops

So thankful for all the love and support the gang gave us when we lost our Penny Bear (even though she wasn't an official gang member). The NG Bark Squad, in particular, is a true blessing.

I am grateful for my neighborhood and community. I can't imagine quarantining anywhere else. Our neighbors have been so kind, waving from their door, chatting across the street, and leaving cookies at our door. We are so lucky and grateful for that.

Mom loves the gang and all the pups, I woof my gang furfriends and all my friends... cheese, belly rubs, butt rubs, tennis, and the beach. And squirrels.

I am thankful for my mini gang The Nuggets, they're always there for support.

Simply put but often heard, The FrOgAlOts are grateful for all the FURiends we made, genuine people who care. Saved my life over one 2019 weekend. Love, Amy, Zoë and Max

Seeing all the cute pups world-wide as we all fight this pandemic together

Oh, there are so many things to be grateful for!! Of course, we are grateful for the gang. They welcomed us with open arms and made us a part of a wonderful family!!

I am thankful that Norman has a picture of me, in my space suit, hanging in his house. It takes a strong wheaten to recognize the first schnau in space. Love you, Norman. XOXO, Jester

Grateful to have so much quality time with my family.

I am so thankful for my Norman's Gang family and all the love we share, and spread. My sorrows are easier and my joys are sweeter because of all of you!

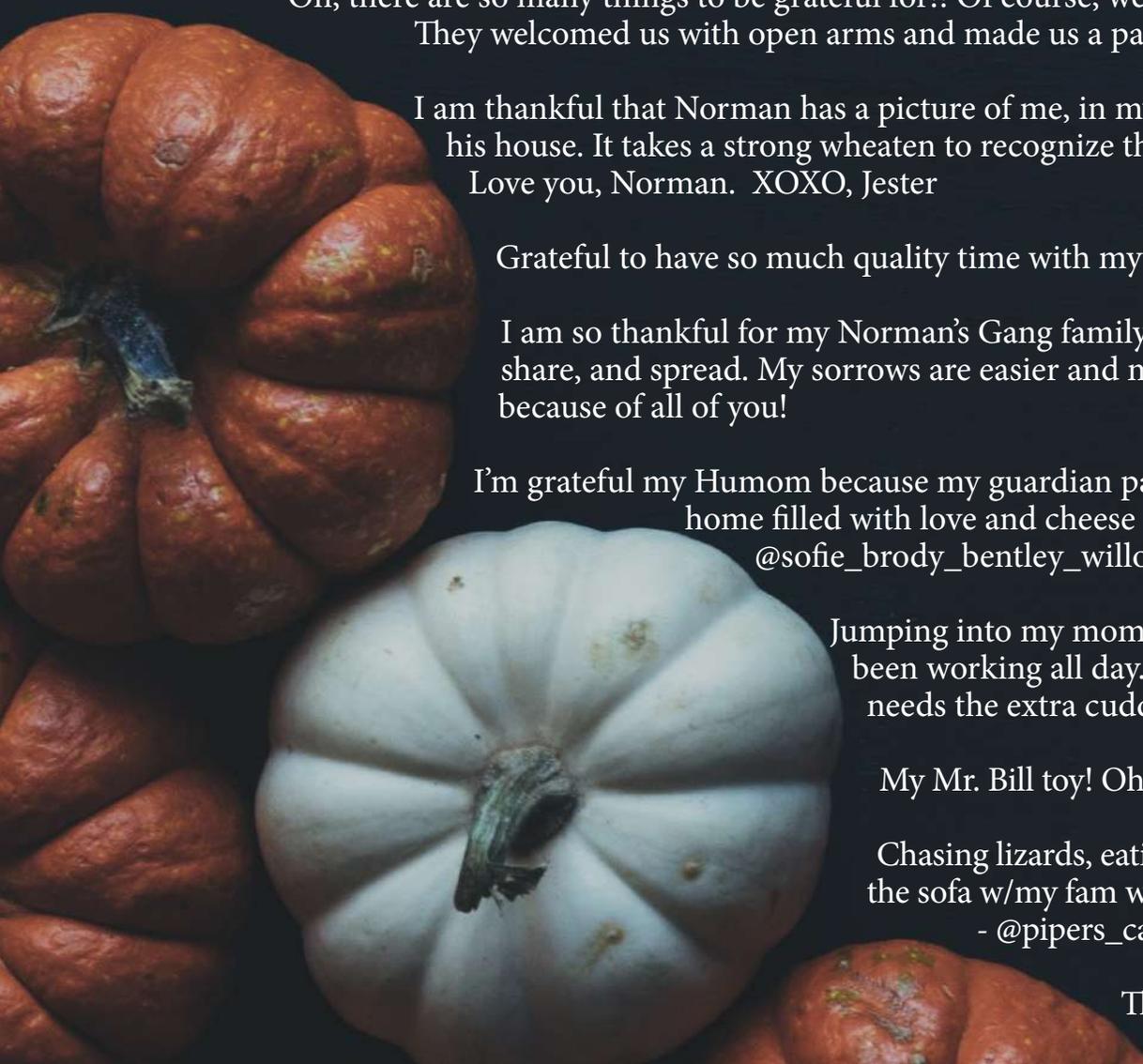
I'm grateful my Humom because my guardian parent! Now I have a home filled with love and cheese ~Willow
@sofie_brody_bentley_willow

Jumping into my mommy's arms after she's been working all day. Something tells me she needs the extra cuddles.

My Mr. Bill toy! Ohhhhhhh Noooooooo

Chasing lizards, eating cheese and sitting on the sofa w/my fam while getting ALL the pets!
- @pipers_capped_acct

The amazing Hood!



We are so thankful for the love, support, and generosity of this gang. The kindness shown here restores our hope in humanity.

Grateful for quieter times we can spend at home with the people closest to us. Spending time with our little family of 3 (including our new pup Frankie) has been so nice and cherished.

Grass under my feet, water in my bowl, a long car ride and the cuddles from my pawrents. Grateful from my tail to my tongue.

Every time I go to lick my baby seeeeester's face, she smiles and opens her mouth to give me optimal access

I'm grateful for all the love, support, laughter, and dongs I get from my Nuggets every day ~Mama Nugg

I'm grateful that the pandemic has made my dad work from home all day everyday now. Just need to figure out how to keep mom home 24/7 now. (@Westcoastwheaten)

Notorious Nola and her mama. They've been so good about keeping us up to date. They're always so positive. Also, less crowded beaches.

We are so grateful for the beauty of where we live, nature and the wild life here reminds us every day that the world is such a beautiful place and deserves our respect and awe.

Thankful for the support and outpouring of love! we've lost two of our three dogs this years and the response from the gang has been tremendous. We also so appreciate the NG Healing Hearts as a safe place to live out our grief for our furry friends and lift up others who are going through similar times.

I'm so grateful for our Nuggerhood, led by Mama Nugget Tara. This group of strangers, brought together by the love for our animals, has been my rock when things are crappy, and also where I can share good news when I'm told "don't tell anyone"! We love and support one another, and both laugh and cry as one.

I'm thankful for my new friends in Norman's gang, especially the muttley minions! I am also thankful for cheese! @the_wheatie_sofia

Mom's thankful for the gang humans & pups, having friends, a roof over our head, the beach and nature, but she doesn't wag so on to me.... I'm grateful for my furfriends, being able to go to the beach and park everyday, cheese, butt rubs from strangers, and the breeze playing in my fur.

For health in the midst of this pandemic, provisions, and Our Amazing IG family which is world wide!

The last several months have been crazy with COVID and the effects on work, my daughter's schooling, her dance classes and competitions. Starting our boy's IG page has been the highlight. I'd much rather look at all the cute puppies and their adventures than the news. Being part of Norman's Gang has definitely been a highlight of this time. I love my mini group and we are all there to support each other. We started sharing a positive thing each day! Helps shove out all the negativity in the world!! #normansgang885

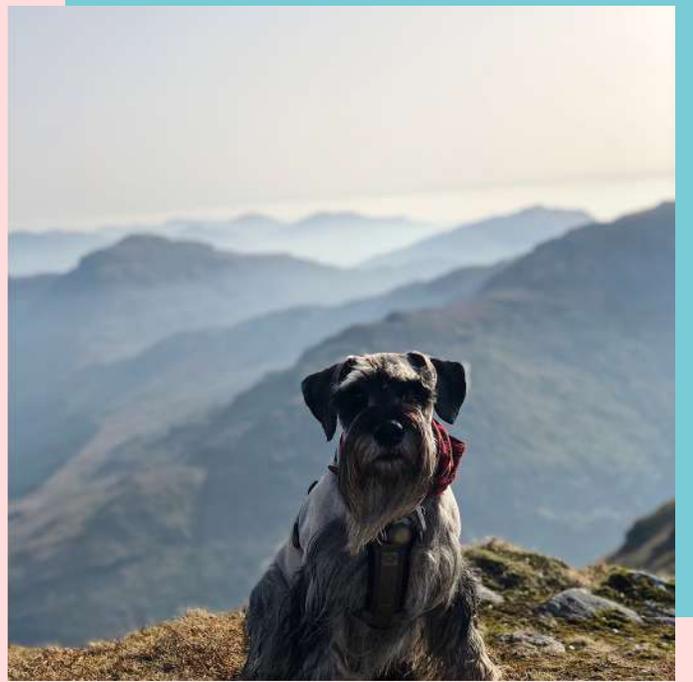


By: @theschnauzerfen

PART I

travels with fen

One year. 15 countries. And a lot of memories.



Traveling with your dog can be quite a daunting task. While many choose to leave their pooches at home, I decided to embark on a year-long adventure with my standard schnauzer Fen. Leaving Canada last October, we have managed to crunch through about 15 countries since then! This is the story of how we did it, what we saw, and some helpful tips & tricks for travelling with your 4-legged best friend!

Last October Fen and I left our home in Toronto, Canada and travelled by car down to New York. We then boarded the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner that brought us to Southampton, United Kingdom. The QM2 is one of the only cruise liner ships that allow dogs on board. While it takes a whopping 7 days to make the trans-Atlantic crossing, it was just about the only way I felt was safe enough for Fen to travel. Dogs can only access the specified dog kennel area and dog deck (they cannot go into your cabin). The kennels are maintained by two kennel staff members that feed and look after the dogs while on board. You can access the kennels for a large portion of the day to check up on your dog and play with them. I was up there pretty much all day with Fen playing ball on deck. There are about 20 kennel spaces and there is a huge waiting list to get one of those coveted spaces! I believe as of now there are no spaces until 2021! However, there are often cancellations, and if you get on the waiting list you have a pretty good chance of getting a space. That's how we got ours. Fen was surprisingly very relaxed on board the boat. The kennel masters said that dogs are often not bothered by the rough seas. He was pretty content to play ball on deck and play around with a couple of the other dogs on board. Although by day 4 or 5 he was about ready to have a good run on land!

After spending the week on board, landing in Southampton was an amazing feeling. Fen's paws were ready to hit some grass and go for a run! I rented a car and headed up to Glasgow, Scotland where I eventually rented an apartment and made home base for the year. Scotland is an incredible country and very dog friendly! Fen was allowed in stores, cafes, and pubs. Going into this adventure, I didn't really have a plan as to what I wanted to do or where I wanted to go. I knew I wanted to live in Scotland for the majority of the time, so I just left the rest open-ended.

After arriving in Scotland and getting my apartment, buying a car, and getting Fen set up at a vet clinic, we were ready to head out and explore. The first place we went, about 3 weeks after arriving in Scotland, was the Isle of Skye. It was incredible! We hiked up the Old Man of Storr in the dark at about 5 am to be at the top for sunrise, and I think that is still one of the biggest highlights from my entire trip. A few weeks later we headed to Wales and hiked around Snowdonia National Park for just over a week. It was another awe-inspiring place - full of amazing landscapes, incredible hikes and such friendly people! 10/10 - would recommend it!

At this point Fen was handling everything in stride! The back seat of my little Ford focus was completely his. He had a bed, water & food, toys and of course about 3 blankets because he is blanket obsessed. He was also getting used to arriving at new Airbnbs and hotels and began settling in quite quickly. I always made sure to send my Airbnb host a quick message when booking to see that he would be welcome (even if it was a "pet friendly" listing). This gives the host a heads up and alleviates any awkward introductions.

In the beginning of June, I decided on a whim that we were going to climb Ben Nevis. It is the UK's highest mountain at about 1345m in height. Mind you, Fen and I are active hikers so we weren't completely unprepared, but I knew it was going to be a challenge. Ben Nevis can be dangerous so Fen and I came prepared with a pack full of necessities. One app for your phone I highly recommend is called ViewRanger. It allows you to plot your route and tells you if you veer off, it shows elevation, topography, etc. It was very helpful on numerous occasions. We started the climb around 6:30 am and were back down after completing it around 1:30 pm. It is about 18km with 1352 meters of ascent. Fen was an absolute star and had a fantastic time. He was the highest pooch in the UK for about 15min while we had our snack at the top! This was one of my top 5 favorite things we did the whole year.

Be sure to catch the next edition of The Hood to hear about the rest of my adventure!



@willettthewheaten
Strollin' the trails in Park City, UT



@stevie_whoodle
Back at the beach in Goose Rocks Beach, ME



@notoriousnola
Cabana chillin in Southampton, NY



@bitesizesnickers
Paddleboardin' with my bestie
in Venice Beach, CA

@pete_the_girl_dog
Camp life at Blueberry Lake, VT



@raemondandlouis
Adirondack chair with a side of
wheaten in Seattle, WA

Summer Rewind

*See what
the Gang
got into this
SUMMER*



@lezanne1__hershey_girl
Got my own chair by the lake.



@mr.oliverthewheaten
Pool days are the best days

@hattiebthewheatie
Splorin' parks in Nashville, TN



@boston_bossybear
Th messier, the happier



@iamwrigleythewheatie
Dog days of summer in Iowa



@murphyandjelybean
Sand hair, don't care at Huntington Dog Beach, CA