

ATA article for September 2019

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

By the time you read this article, the Grand will have concluded and a new target year will have barely started. As I travel from State to State (and province), I am reminded of the level of devotion trapshooters have to their pets. Dogs are being walked and cared for. Most are friendly and looking to be petted.

We, as trapshooters, are a microcosm of our society where our pets mean the world to us. They are pampered, cared for, kept cool with air conditioning even in blistering heat. For many trapshooters, their dog is a constant companion and when the master (or mistress) pulls the shotgun out to go to a trapshoot, the canine cannot wait to jump in the vehicle for another clay target adventure. Almost everyone loves pets, whether their own or someone else's. As Dave Chicheli frequently says, "dogs are great companions but there is one major problem – you get so attached emotionally to them and they never live long enough". Sad, but true.

How did humans luck out and get such loyal and loving canine buddies? Here is a story I recently saw that you may enjoy and may explain the genesis of our human/canine relationship perhaps going back to Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you any more. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us".

And God said, "I will create a companion for you that will be with you and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves".

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal and God was pleased.



And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal".

And God said, "I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG".

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well".

And God said, "I will create for them a companion who will be with them and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration".

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.



And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the Supreme Beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility.

And they were greatly improved.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was happy.

And the Cat . . .



didn't give a s... one way or the other.....

Enjoy the new trapshooting year and remember that trapshooting is a like life – there will be ups and downs. The moment you get too full of yourself, a target will humiliate you. Dog may sympathize with your pain. And cat

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