

DOG TALK *With Nancy Truax*



Happy New Year... Countdown of New Year's Resolutions at the Truax Household

BY NANCY TRUAX

My sweet husband, Ed, and I were celebrating a wonderful New Year's Eve at the beach when he gamely suggested that the Doodles should make some resolutions for 2014. I concur that it is not a bad idea. There are several that I would suggest to them. The most obvious is that they would resolve not to steal our uncooked dinner from the counter. Recently, Ed had prepared two ½ pound pieces of petrale sole for cooking. When he tried to retrieve them from the counter to put them in the pan, only one piece remained. Apparently, instead of determining that it might be our dinner she had in her sights, Josie decided that a sushi dinner was in her immediate future. I really think that a New Year's resolution to leave our dinners alone would be appropriate.

Next, I would appreciate it if the Doodles would resolve not to bark in the car. The cacophony associated with two large dogs howling in my car cannot be underestimated. I can't even imagine what they are trying to

accomplish. The most common target of the Doodles wrath is cars traveling in the opposite direction, although they also had a problem with a motorcycle following us on the way to the beach. A little peace and quiet on road trips in 2014 would be greatly appreciated.

And while I hate to ask too much of them, I would also request that the Doodles not hurl themselves at the front door when a stranger approaches. While it has caused a door-to-door salesman or two to retreat to the bottom of the stairs, it scares the poor children who are kind enough to bring over mail which has been wrongly delivered to their homes. As a side note, they are destroying the wood panels flanking the front door. Please Doodles: no more

self-hurling.

I also have some suggested New Year's resolutions for dogs who do not reside with us. There are a couple of pooches at Oregon Dog Rescue who might benefit from a 2014 resolution or two. My dear canine friend Toby could resolve not to jump a 5 foot

fence. He doesn't even need a running start. With four paws on the floor, Toby can clear the fence with room to spare. It would be easier to find a home for Toby if he weren't the Houdini of dogs. Then there is Elvis. He is a Chihuahua who hates me. Perhaps he could resolve to improve our relationship in 2014. Elvis doesn't hate everybody, and he is the only dog out of the almost 3000 that have inhabited Oregon Dog Rescue that has not taken a liking to me. I'm not sure what I have done to incur the wrath of Elvis, but he barks madly whenever he sees me. Please Elvis – choose to make more of an effort in the coming year.

I would love it if my mother's Standard Poodle, Charlie, would resolve not to eat/chew/gnaw/destroy paper or plastic. During our New Year's trip to the beach, we had no internet service. A new modem had been delivered to the house, and Ed was unable to install it because Charlie had torn asunder the instructions. We also had to acquire a new gate card for access to the beach because Charlie had snacked on the previous one, and done enough damage as to render it inoperable. Other objects of Charlie's affection/destruction have included an Italian/English – English/Italian pocket dictionary, and a book. I don't think that he is attempting to learn to read, nor is he determined to learn Italian. If Charlie needs more fiber in his diet, he should resolve to find another source.

If the aforementioned dogs would take it upon themselves to make the suggested New Year's resolutions, my life would improve significantly this year. So much so, in fact, that I might not have to make any of my own. Thanks for the idea, Ed.

