

The Corgi Chronicles

The Little Dogs That Changed My Life

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Introduction

This book is written to share with any dog owner or potential dog owner the power that can be gained in your life by allowing yourself the gift of having a dog in your life.

Now my recent experience that I intend to share with in this book might be a bit biased due to my love for my own Corgis that are a huge part of my life. This is not meant to take away from any other breed, it is just a way to share my experience in a more personal way.

I think that any dog can bring a sense of peace to us as humans if we allow them into our lives. The love that dogs give to us is unconditional, which is something we could all take a lesson from in this path of life that we all share.

I hope that you enjoy my e-book and if you do please pass it on to your friends and family.

I wish you well, and enjoy your canine friends and the lessons they can share with you as you live your life with them.

This book is dedicated to Smooches and Opie.
My little buddies!

They have helped me cope with life
In so many ways, just by being!

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How it all Started

Life is so exciting! The times in life that you just allow yourself to be helpful to people can give you the greatest rewards! Have you ever noticed that? If you haven't, give it a try... I have no doubt you will be amazed!

When we had our first Corgi introduced into our life it was by a friend of my wife's. She had been given this beautiful little tri-colored Corgi as a birthday gift by a friend. (Definitely a bad idea... giving a dog as a gift to someone who is not ready for that responsibility!) She was not at a place to have a puppy in her life.

This turned out to be a blessing for us, and we did not even know to what extent! Our friend asked us to keep this little 4 month old puppy until she could find a home for him. Well, 12 years later I think she has quit looking! He is our best friend and a constant source of enjoyment.

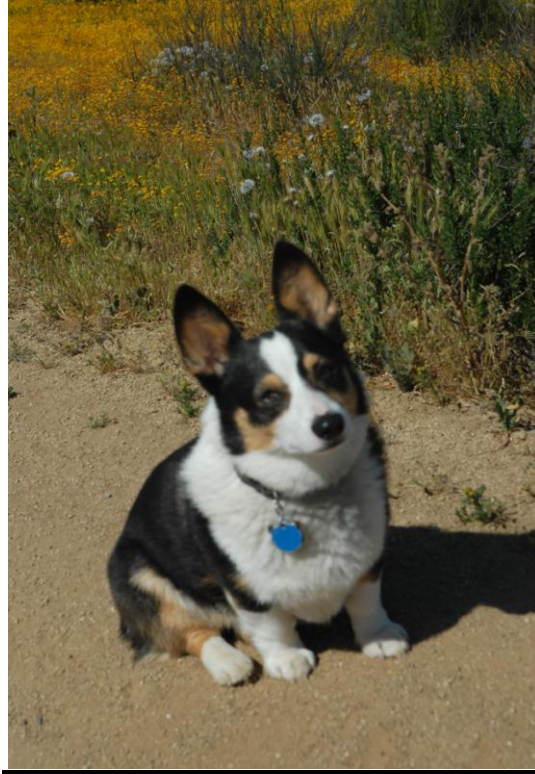
My wife tried within the first week to give this little guy a new home. A lady that had a Jack Russell terrier that was deaf contacted us, she heard that Corgis were very smart dogs and she thought that our little guy could be his ears. My wife made the trip to give the little puppy to this lady, and did so.

When my wife and daughter arrived back home they both had this sad look on their faces. This little puppy had made his way into all of our hearts! Then within minutes of arriving back home the phone rang. It was the lady with the Jack Russell! She informed us that this was not going to work for her, as her dog was constantly biting at our new little friend.

There were smiles on all of our faces! My wife made the trip back to rescue our little buddy. My in-laws were visiting at our house at the time and my Father-in-Law made the statement "they will never get rid of that dog!" boy was he ever right!

This little Corgi is so much a part of our life it still amazes me every day! I can see why the Queen of England has eight Corgis... because she can! These dogs have a permanent smile that is irresistible, and it is always there to greet you when you get home.

Meet Corgi Number One...Smooches.



Now, without a doubt... isn't this one awesome Corgi? Meet Smooches... I know what you are thinking... Smooches why would any one name their dog Smooches? Well, there is a story behind that too.

Remember, this little guy was a gift from a friend. She had already named him and it stuck (in spite of my objections) sometimes we Men don't always get our way we just deal with things as they are!

You see, I'm a Man... I did not want to be out walking my dog and have the comment from a stranger "what a cute dog...what's his name? Well his name is "Smooches". How embarrassing for a big dude like me! But after 12 years, I'm a bit used to it now, and answering that question by strangers hundreds of times has been a blow to my ego in a hugely positive way! And it has been a great source of laughter over the years. Thanks Smooches!

Our Home in Cincinnati

Our life with Smooches started out in Cincinnati Ohio. What a great city, except for the weather. Cincinnati is my wife's hometown. We moved there in 1999 from California to be with her Mom and Dad because he was suffering from cancer at the time. He passed in July of 2000 at the age of 92, and I will always be grateful to have had the pleasure of knowing him! He's the guy that said "they will never get rid of that dog" Bless you Ray... you were the best!

We lived in a beautiful English Tudor style home that was built in 1926. It was awesome, and Smooches loved his back yard! The previous owners had a small play set that had a slide attached to a deck that our daughter and her friends enjoyed. But they had to share it with Smooches. That was his 'lookout tower". This was where he kept an eye on things that were happening in the neighborhood!

Corgis are very social dogs they will follow you everywhere, and when they meet people they have a lasting effect on them, as it should be! Our neighbors across the street from us were two elderly ladies that were sisters. We became very close to them also, due to their health needs. They loved to have Smooches come over to visit with them.

Our garage in our home was situated on the back of our house, and we had a privacy fence with a large double gate for car access. After a few years our fence needed to be replaced, so I took on the project with excitement. I was remodeling Smooches' domain!

I did the fence first and added a decorative lattice that was about 12 inches in height so that Smooches could have a better view from his lookout! What a great Dad I am! Then it was time to build the gates. My imagination really went into high gear at this point.

You see, Corgis are short little dogs, so we must do what we can to make life easier on them. When I got started on the gates I thought "this decorative lattice has to be placed on the bottom of the gates". That way Smooches can see everything that is going on in the neighborhood without any limitations! Brilliant, don't you agree?

That gate project brought so much pleasure to our neighbor ladies as I was building it. They both thought the idea was great, and also all of our other neighbors got many a chuckle as a result of my upside down gate creation!

Sometimes in life the simple things mean so much. The key is to remember that at all times! Another lesson my Corgis keep teaching me every day!



**This was our Home in Cincinnati.
Look close at the wooden gates.
You can see Smooches window!**

Moving Back to California

Moving back to California was something I wanted to do as I was getting the Gold Fever. I wanted to be here again because I love the weather and it is much easier to work in my Masonry trade, but I really wanted to be here because of the real estate boom that was taking place in the early 2000's.

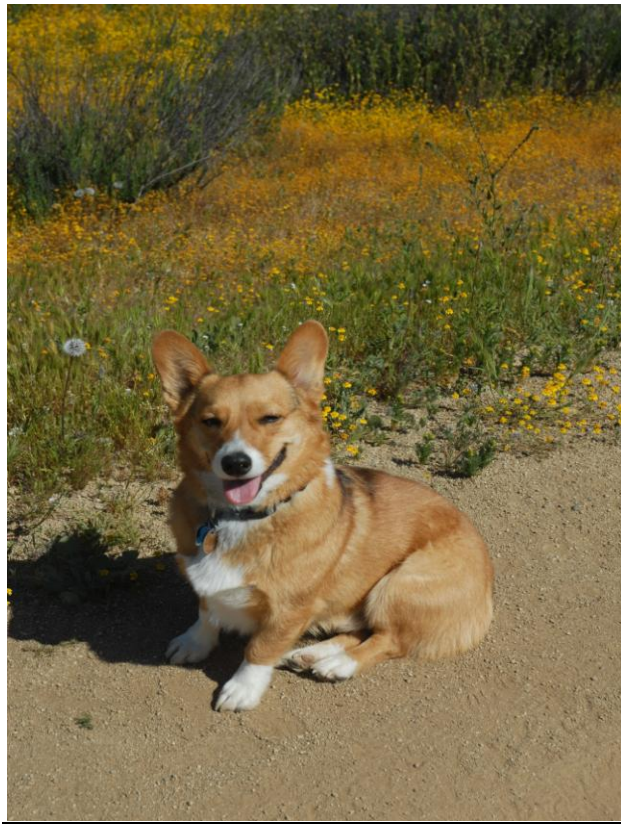
During the time we were making this transition I became very selfish and stubborn. I worked in California in the winter of 2002 and 2003 and my desire to be here became an obsession. I was sure that we could do this as a family, and I did force the issue against what my family was trying to tell me.

You might feel that I am getting a bit off topic here, but if you hang with me, the following chapters will help you understand why I chose to go here.

I lived here for a year by myself in our new home that was going to be our financial future. I invested many hours and dollars into this home thinking that I was doing what was best for all of us.

Anyway, it is now 2010 and we all know that "Bubble has Burst and Splattered all over many of us!" But no matter what happens in life good things do come our way if we let them!

Meet Corgi number two...Opie



Good things happen in life when you least expect them! This is Opie. My first Internet Corgi. You see, during the time I was living here in California by myself I decided that I would get another Corgi for company. I missed my family and I knew what an awesome companion Smooches was, so I set out on a mission to get a Corgi of my own!

I contacted some breeders in Missouri because the price of the Corgis was much less than the pet shop Corgis I had visited. I inquired and ask questions of the breeders and became a bit frustrated at times. Should I get a male dog? Will

this be a problem with Smooches, when we are all together again? I got mixed reviews from many different sources.

Then one day I got an e-mail from a lady in Missouri that I had contacted earlier. She had a friend that had a male Corgi that was 5 months old and she wanted to sell him for half price! What a deal! There was a bit of a catch. You see this little guy had a serious over-bite. They did not want to keep him because he would not be a good dog to breed for this reason. She sent photos of him to me and I said "heck yes... I would love to have him!" Now his given name was Lucky, which would not work for us because of an old neighbor dog in Cincinnati that "did his business in our yard" always upset Smooches. We would yell at Lucky dog to leave and Smooches would go crazy over Lucky Dog being in his yard! Fun times... just mentioning Lucky dog to this day can get Smooches going!

So I brought little Lucky dog into our lives. He made quite the trip to California from Missouri. He went from Missouri to Georgia then to California. I'm still not sure why that was the route, but he was one tired little puppy when I picked him up at the airport!

I was so happy to have his buck-toothed smile in my life. He just looked like a redheaded little country dog, which is why the only name possible for him was Opie! Not only does he have an overbite.. he is also pigeon toed! We are so blessed to have him in our lives!

When Opie was about six months old I was visiting with some friends of mine, and their grandson ask if Opie would chase a ball. I said, "Give it a try" whew... what a fun time that has created. You see Corgis love to please you, and Opie is no different. He is now 6 years old and loves to play catch with anyone! He is obsessed with chasing balls, and finding them too. When we take him for a walk it is not uncommon at all for him to find a ball in the most unlikely places.



Thanks for Your Friendship Opie!

A Few Tips on Training a Corgi

In our experience with Smooches and Opie we have found that Corgis require discipline or they will take advantage of you every chance they get. When we had our 2-story English Tudor style home in Cincinnati Smooches was not allowed upstairs in the bedrooms.

Now, my wife can be quite the rule enforcer, but she can also break the rules when she feels the need! She would want to snuggle with Smooches upstairs so she would hide his head in a blanket and sneak him up into the “forbidden land of the bedrooms”! What a goof! But that’s my wife, and my best friend at her best! It always amazed me that he never came upstairs on his own! At least to my knowledge Ha!

Somewhere along the way we found that if Smooches would be testing his territory or doing something he knew was wrong and we caught him we just needed to “clear our throats” with a tone of dis-pleasure and he would stop what he was doing immediately! The only problem with this was when one of us had a cold! The poor little guy thought he was always in trouble!

We did invest time in training classes for both Smooches and Opie. I would highly recommend you do the same. These dogs were bred for herding and the interaction with other dogs in a classroom setting is priceless! If you don’t choose the classroom method of training here is a program that might work for you as an option. [Secrets to Dog Training](#) could be helpful to you.

Please, if you are a new dog owner do not take your responsibility lightly. Corgis can live to be 15 to 20 years old and they require as much care as a child! The amount of training and time you spend with them will be returned to you in more positive ways than you could ever imagine!

Be consistent with walking your dog. Twice a day at least for Corgis, they love it and you will too! It's an awesome way to get in touch with nature! This holds true for any breed. It makes me sad how many dogs in our neighborhood never see anything but their backyards. We hear them barking, but have no idea what they look like! If you can't commit to your dog then don't own one!

Some Nutrition Ideas For a Corgi

A healthy diet for any dog is a must. We have done very well with high quality food from our veterinarian's office. I have been doing a bit of research though and I am finding that more people are recommending natural non-commercial food for their dogs.

I have mixed feelings about some of the hype regarding this, but in many ways it makes sense to at least be open to the possibility. Here is a free video that is very informative regarding this subject. [Free Dog Life Saving Report](#) This is something you may want to view.

If this will add years to our Corgi's lives, I am going to investigate the options for myself. It's great how researching information for something like an e-book can provide the author with information that is helpful in their life too!

Life really is a learning process in so many ways. When you stop learning you stop growing! Great realization thanks again to my little buddies!



Nothing like Hanging out With Your Buddies!

Life's Blessings Revealed

I'm sure you realize by now we love our Corgis. These little guys have been such a constant source of joy for us for many years now. They just keep smiling and are always ready to go anywhere we choose to take them.

As you can see in the picture of Opie in front of my fireplace, I had my little buddy help me as I was building this fireplace at our home. This was taken the day after I brought him home from the airport. He was my companion from day one and Opie and Smooches are both by my side as I write this book. They are both bundles of "unconditional love" to say the least.

I was injured on the job back in June of 2009 and I have been so blessed to be in a position to stop and be grateful for my family and all that they have put up with since I made this move to California. You see, the real estate market and the loss of my job has made me realize that in the overall scheme of things all that really matters is people! I'm struggling financially at this time, but I know that God has greater things in store for me and my family, I just need to be a co-creator with God and all will be well!

In the past 17 months since my injury I have had many times when I have thought "what's the use in continuing to fight the battle?" Then I get out of my self-pity attitude and push on. More times than I can count my Corgi buddies have helped me realize that being happy is a choice. It's amazing how they can cheer me up with their never-ending smiles!

Thanks so much for taking time to read my Corgi e-book. I hope you have enjoyed it and I hope it has caused you to smile at least once or twice. The next chapter is devoted to some resources that might be helpful to you if you are considering becoming the fortunate owner of a Welsh Pembroke Corgi.

If I can answer any questions for you please contact me at doug@dougcasady.com I would be honored to be of help to you in any way I can. My best advice to you is... enjoy each moment, and share yourself with as many of God's creations as you can!

Best wishes to you,
Doug Casady

A Few Corgi Resources for You

Here is a link for information about Doggie massages. Opie and Smooches love massages! [Here are your massage possibilities!](#)

Please take a look at this website:

<http://www.selectsmart.com/DOG/> before choosing a Corgi for your family.

Also, you might want to consider the adoption of a Corgi through a Corgi Rescue organization. Here is a link for that possibility:

<http://www.forpaws.org/articles/AboutCorgiRescue.htm>

Here is an Ezine Article I wrote last year that might be of interest to you too:

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Are-You-Looking-For-a-Dog?---Check-Out-the-Corgi-Breed---You-Will-Be-Pleasantly-Surprised!>

Again, I thank you for reading my e-book, and contact me if I can be of help to you in any way!

