



# Puppy Tails

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*As the moon goes to bed,  
the sun comes up  
And here we meet a sleepy pup,  
Who was walking through  
G-ville one bright sunny day,  
Then saw The Villager  
and decided to stay.*

All right, that's it! Doodle Dog had ENOUGH of this recent weather. The gray clouds covering the sky, the constant downpour on the roof, the harsh winds rattling the windows had gone on long enough. Doodle Dog always tries to look on the bright side of things, but with such gloomy surroundings it was all a bit much. He cautiously crawled out from under the desk where he had been hiding, dust bunnies covering his fur and making him sneeze. ACHOO! Doodle Dog was tired of his coat being dusty from his hiding places, tired of all the rain and dark clouds, tired of the tree branches tapping meanly against the window glass and, with his nights interrupted by the constant tornado sirens wailing in the distance, he was just plain tired from no sleep!

As Doodle Dog peered outside, one floppy ear turned to listen around the edge of the door, he hoped the wind had settled down enough for him to finally venture out into the fresh air. He'd heard stories of a farm girl and her little dog from Kansas being whisked off by a twister and deposited in some strange land made of emeralds. Though Doodle Dog liked going in search of adventure, he didn't exactly want to be yanked away from his cozy little town to find it!

Luckily for this little dog, it appeared that he was still right where he was when he'd tucked himself under the desk. The roads and yards before him were almost unrecognizable with all the fallen trees and scattered leaves interrupting the usually well-kept lawns, and there was a new temporary lake or two where a garden had once been thanks to some flooding from the river, but all in all it looked like the same small town Doodle Dog was used to exploring. A little worse for the wear, but nonetheless still very much his home.

The sun was trying to shine through the murky cloud cover and Doodle Dog decided he would try and make the best of the day too. Maybe he would see another

rainbow! The rain let up a little bit, settling into a slight drizzle, so Doodle Dog raised his floppy ears to shield his eyes and nose against the sprinkling and continued down the street. Carefully avoiding branches and other bits of debris strewn across the sidewalk, Doodle Dog made his way through town with one very important place in mind. He wanted to make sure his favorite park was still there!

When he arrived, he found it in the same condition as the town - windblown and a bit messier than usual, but still the park all the same. Wherever there had been a rolling hill or dip in the grass there was now a deep puddle where rainwater gathered. Several puddles were crystal clear, reflecting the sunshine still trying to sneak past the clouds, but there were a few where the water had mixed with dirt, making a goopy

mess very thick like a chocolate milkshake. Doodle Dog leaned in to sniff one of the nearby goopy puddles and jumped back suddenly as a glob of muck flew onto his nose. The puddle was moving! The floppy-eared puppy watched with curiosity as a creature emerged from the goop, rolling and plopping back and forth, making the dirt and water go SPLAT over everything near. Everything including Doodle Dog. As Doodle Dog looked on, the messy little monster crawled out of the small crater, gobs of muck stuck in its fur and floppy ears dripping with wet dirt. The Mud Puppy happily yipped a greeting to Doodle Dog... seconds before promptly shaking itself, inevitably splattering the remnants of goo all over its new companion. It eagerly bounced around the puddle and the now-filthy Doodle Dog, apparently too excited to sit still. Instead of

growling at the new mess covering his coat, Doodle Dog smiled at the Mud Puppy's enthusiasm.

Doodle Dog couldn't tell what color the other dog's coat was under all that mud, but it didn't matter. The dog was friendly and wanted to play, and Doodle Dog was quite fine with meeting a new friend! Since his own fur was already covered in rain and muck, Doodle Dog figured what harm would it be to join in? He backed up a few steps, but instead of leaving, Doodle Dog took a running leap and jumped SMACK into the middle of the mud puddle. This time HE was the one making

the mess scatter! The two very muddy dogs spent the afternoon rolling and plopping from puddle to puddle, happily playing in what the storms had left for them. When it was time to go home, muddy paw prints made a trail back into town, proof of what fun had been found that day. Doodle Dog knew better than to track dirt into the office though, so before he went home he showed the Mud Puppy one of his other favorite places to play - a big lake near the park. Together they ran as fast as they could, leaping into the cool, clear water and - instead of a SPLAT - made one giant... SPLASH!



## Notes from the vineyard

Amanda Conkol

There is a new trend that is sweeping the wine industry. While this wine has been around for a long time we are starting to see an increase in sales across the country. If you have ever tried Asti Spumanti then you have tried the latest trend... Muscato.

This sweet white wine has an amazing floral which makes it a great sparkling wine. As most wineries focus on growing this grape (Muscat) to be used for their sparkling wines, the new trend that we have seen is to serve it as a chilled white wine. We first started to see this new trend in many wineries in Georgia, Alabama and northern Florida.

Researchers have accounted two main attributes to this trend. The first has been the increase in new wine drinkers. As new wine drinkers enter the wine industry most of the time they tend to drink the sweeter wines, which is a reason that White Zinfandel (a sweet blush) is the best seller. Then as new wine drinkers start to experience more wines they tend to start trying drier wines.

The second reason Muscato has become such a trend is more and more people are enjoying wine as a dessert option. The sweetness of

Muscato has a great balance that goes with most dessert. Whether you are serving fruit, chocolate cake or cheesecake, Muscato pairs nicely with a variety of desserts or can be served as dessert.

So if you get a chance to pick up a Muscato this summer be sure to chill it for a couple of hours then sit back and try the latest trend to hit the wine industry.

*Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Road, Garrettsville. For more information on events or wine lists from the winery, please visit [www.candlelightwinery.com](http://www.candlelightwinery.com) or call 330.527.4118.*

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