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The Adventures of Duke & Dash



Barby James

Every chapter has links to a secret activity page at **www.dukedash.com**. There you will find online jigsaw puzzles, games and all sorts of fun activities that you can play for free.

The Adventures of **Duke & Dash**



Barby James

The Adventures of Duke & Dash

by Barby James

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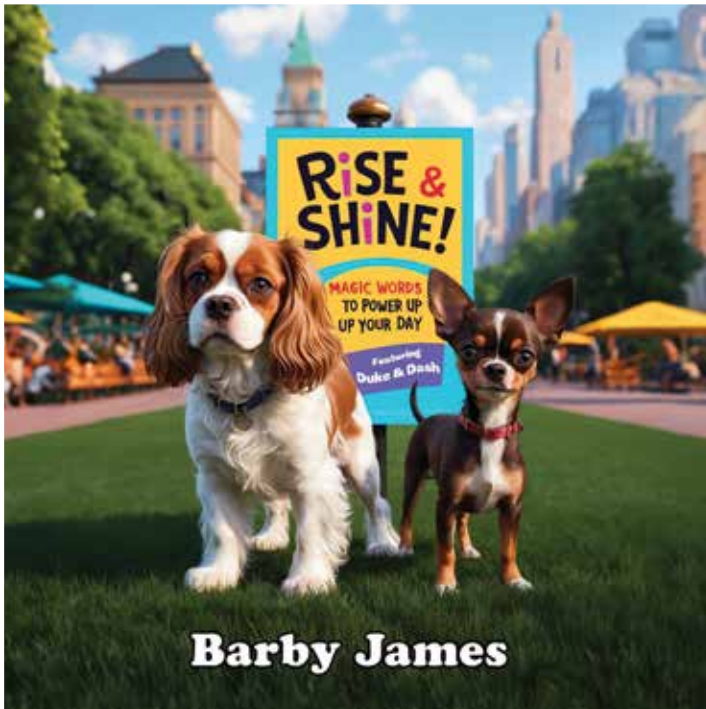
You will see a link at the beginning of each chapter. Type it into your browser and you'll find an online jigsaw puzzle you can complete. After that, go to the bottom of the page and click go to game to find another fun activity. All the games are free for you to play.

The screenshot displays the 'The Adventures of Duke & Dash' website. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Home, About us, Gallery, Purchase, and Puzzle. The main content area features a jigsaw puzzle game. A text box at the top of the puzzle area instructs users to 'Put Duke & Dash's alien puzzle together' and mentions a 'dash icon' to change the number of pieces. To the left of the puzzle, a red arrow points down with the text 'GO DOWN FOR MORE FUN'. The puzzle itself is a grid of pieces showing Duke and Dash in various poses. A central overlay contains icons for a menu, undo, redo, and a 'GO TO GAME' button. Below the puzzle, a large red question mark is accompanied by the text 'Are you ready for another fun game?'. To the right of the question mark, a smaller image of Duke and Dash is shown with the text 'Play the find the difference game next.' and a 'GO TO GAME' button. The bottom navigation bar is identical to the top one.

Coming Soon to Amazon

Duke & Dash are at it again in *Rise & Shine! Magic Words to Power Up Your Day*. This 40-page book is full of positive words to brighten your day.

PLUS, there are a bunch of pages of the dogs in costume telling jokes to you, me, and each other.



CONTENTS

	Introduction	6
1	Alien Encounter	7
2	First Meeting	10
3	Park Adventure	12
4	Muffin's Surprise	14
5	Muffin Retaliates	16
6	Trading Jokes	18
7	Coyote Escape	20
8	Bath Time	22
9	Forest Treasure	24
10	Lost Puppy	27
11	Dog Detectives	32
12	Time Travelers	35
13	Pet Show	38
14	The Festival	42
15	Camping Trip.	46
16	Beach Adventure	50
17	Teacher's Pets	54
18	New Kid	58



INTRODUCTION

This book is about two best friends who go on fun adventures together. It is loosely based on two real pups that were adopted by their humans, Mom and Dad.

Duke is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. He has brown and white wavy fur, long silky ears, and dark round eyes. He was adopted by Mom and Dad when his original owner got sick and couldn't take care of him anymore. He is a gentle and sweet-natured guy.

Dash is a little Chihuahua that was found at the Humane Society. He has a short, dark brown coat, upright ears, and a curly tail. He started life out in a rougher part of town, so he is always on the alert and very observant. He loves to dash around the house as fast as his little legs can go. This is how he got his name, "Dash."

The two dogs are opposite in a lot of ways, yet they are best friends. They see the world in their special doggy way.



1 – ALIEN ENCOUNTER

It was an ordinary afternoon in Duke and Dash’s backyard. The sun was shining, and the two dogs were busy playing their favorite game of fetch. Duke was the thrower, and Dash was the chaser.

“Here it comes, Dash!” Duke barked, punching the ball with his nose so it flew across the yard.

Dash sprinted after it, his paws kicking up bits of grass. But just as he was about to catch the ball, he noticed something unusual in the sky. He skidded to a stop, staring up in wonder.

“Duke, look!” Dash called, his voice filled with awe.

Duke trotted over, squinting up at the sky. There, floating gently down into their yard, was a strange, shiny object. It shimmered in the sunlight, moving in a slow, deliberate manner.

“Is that... an alien?” Duke whispered, his eyes wide with excitement and a hint of fear.

“It must be!” Dash replied nervously. “What do we do?”

“We need to investigate,” Duke decided, puffing out his chest bravely. “But carefully.”

The two dogs crept forward, their noses twitching as they tried to make sense of the strange object. As it floated closer, they could see it was round and had some sort of symbol on it.

“It’s coming right into our yard!” Dash exclaimed, taking a step back.

“Stay calm, Dash,” Duke said, though his voice was a bit shaky. “We’ll figure this out.”

The object finally landed softly on the grass. Duke and Dash approached it cautiously, sniffing it from a safe distance. It didn’t smell like anything they’d ever seen before. Suddenly, a gust of wind caused it to move, and both dogs jumped back, barking furiously.

“Wait a minute,” Duke said, his ears perking up as he looked closer. “I think I’ve seen something like this before.”

Dash tilted his head, confused. “What do you mean?”

Duke squinted at the object. “I think it’s... a balloon. Remember those things from the park?”

Dash sniffed it again, more carefully this time. “You might be right. And those symbols look like letters.”

As they got closer, they realized it was indeed a balloon, with “Happy Birthday!” written in bright, cheerful letters. Duke let out a sigh of relief.

“It’s just a birthday balloon!” he laughed, nudging Dash. “We thought it was an alien!”

Dash joined in the laughter, his tail wagging happily. “Well, it did give us quite the scare. But it makes for a funny story, don’t you think?”

Duke nodded. “Definitely. Just imagine telling everyone we thought a balloon was an alien.”

They played with the balloon for a while, batting it around the yard and chasing it as the wind blew it gently.

As the sun began to set, they settled down under their favorite tree. The wind had blown the balloon up into the branches above them, and it swayed gently in the breeze.

“That was an adventure,” Dash said, resting his head on his paws.

“It sure was,” Duke agreed. “And it reminded us that not everything strange is scary.”

Dash smiled. “Yeah. Sometimes it’s just a funny surprise waiting to be discovered.”

With that, the two friends drifted off to sleep, ready for whatever the next day might bring, be it aliens, balloons, or anything in between.





2 – FIRST MEETING

“Hey, Dash, do you remember the first time we met?” Duke began, wagging his tail as they lounged under their favorite tree in the yard.

Dash tilted his head, curious. “Yeah, I remember it was a special day. But you never told me the full story from your side.”

Duke chuckled. “Well, get comfortable, because it’s quite a tale. It all started when Dad told me we were going to meet a new friend. I was so excited, bouncing around the house like a crazy pup.”

Dash grinned. “Sounds like you.”

“Right? So, Mom carried you into the house and set you on the floor. You were shaking and trembling because you were a little scared and didn’t know what to expect. My tail was wagging so hard I thought it might fall off! I just knew we were

going to be best friends, so I ran over to you as fast as I could and sniffed you all over.”

“I remember seeing you,” Dash interrupted. “You were like a blur!”

“Yeah, I was running so fast and barking with excitement,” Duke continued. “But then, all of a sudden, I started feeling a bit weird. My heart was pounding, and I couldn’t catch my breath. I was so overwhelmed that I started panting, and I COULDN’T STOP PANTING!”

Dash’s eyes widened. “Oh no! What happened next?”

“Mom noticed right away that something was wrong,” Duke said. “She rushed over, picked me up, and took me straight to the emergency vet. You see, she was worried about my heart because I have a slight heart murmur, which is common in my dog breed.”

Duke continued, “I was panting so hard and feeling really dizzy. At the vet, they checked me over, gave me oxygen, and put me in a cool, quiet place to keep me calm. They said I had just gotten too excited and needed to relax.”

Dash’s tail drooped. “I had no idea it was that serious. I just thought you left because you had somewhere else to be.”

Duke smiled. “Yeah, it was pretty scary at the time, but the vet took good care of me. After I calmed down, my mom brought me back home. I was a little nervous, but there you were, wagging your tail and waiting for me. This time, I took it slower.”

Dash nuzzled Duke. “I’m glad you were okay, Duke. And I’m really glad we got to be friends.”

They both laughed, and Duke exclaimed, “But seriously, I’m grateful for that day. It taught me to pace myself and also how much fun it is to have a best friend like you.”



3 – PARK ADVENTURE

“Dash, what fun I had the other day!” Duke said, with glee. “So, there I was, walking with Dad in the park, when I spotted this fluffy squirrel. You know the kind—the ones with the super bushy tails that just beg to be chased.

“Anyway, I took off after it, zooming across the grass like a rocket. The squirrel darted up a tree, but I wasn’t going to give up that easily. I stood there barking, hoping it would come down. But then I got distracted by a butterfly. Yeah, a butterfly! I started jumping around trying to catch it, completely forgetting about the squirrel.

“Then, I noticed something even more exciting: another dog had left its ball behind. Jackpot! I grabbed the ball and ran back to Dad, tail wagging like crazy, only to realize... it wasn’t our ball. Dad had to chase me down to return it to the other dog’s owner.

“But the best part? I smelled something wonderful—a delicious, mouth-watering smell. I followed the scent around

a tree, and there it was: a glorious, slightly charred, half-eaten piece of pepperoni pizza, lying on the ground as if it had fallen from the heavens.

“Pizza! My heart skipped a beat. Without a second thought, I pounced on it and began gobbling it up.”

“Hey, wait a minute,” Dash retorted, “what about me—didn’t you save me any?”

Duke hung his head in shame—he felt bad for not sharing. “I’m sorry, buddy. I hope you understand that it was in the heat of the moment. I was totally focused on that cheesy goodness and didn’t think of anything or anyone else.”

“That’s okay,” Dash murmured. “I probably would have reacted the same way. Eat first and ask questions later.”

Duke was grateful for Dash’s understanding and that he didn’t hold a grudge. The two friends ran off to play fetch; their bond was a little tested but still strong.

Duke learned an important lesson about sharing, and Dash, ever the forgiving friend, was already looking forward to their next adventure.





4 – MUFFIN’S SURPRISE

“Duke, you remember that snooty cat next door, Muffin?”
Dash said, a sly glint in his eyes.

“Yeah, the one that always acts like she’s better than everyone? What about her?” Duke replied, ears perking up.

“I’ve got an idea for a little prank,” Dash said, grinning. “You know how she loves to strut around the garden like she owns the place? Well, what if we gave her a bit of a surprise?”

Duke’s eyes lit up with interest. “I’m listening. What do you have in mind?”

“Okay, so, you know those wind-up mice Dad got us last Christmas?” Dash began. “What if we set a couple of them loose in the garden right when Muffin is doing her daily parade?”

Duke chuckled. “Oh, I like where this is going. She’ll think they’re real mice and totally lose her cool!”

“Exactly!” Dash said, his tail wagging excitedly. “We just need to time it perfectly. You hide behind the bushes with the mice, and I’ll keep watch to signal when Muffin is coming.”

Duke nodded. “Alright, let’s do it. This is going to be so funny.”

Later that afternoon, the plan was set into motion. The boys hid in their spots, watching as Muffin strutted into the garden, her nose high in the air.

“Now!” Dash whispered, and Duke released the wind-up mice.

The mice scurried across the garden, their little wheels whirring. Muffin stopped in her tracks, eyes wide with shock. She crouched low, ready to pounce, but as the mice kept moving in crazy patterns, she quickly realized something was off.

Muffin took a cautious step forward, then another, before finally batting at one of the mice with her paw. When it didn’t react like a real mouse, she jumped back, utterly confused.

Duke and Dash, unable to contain their laughter, burst out from their hiding spots, barking and rolling on the ground.

Muffin, now realizing she’d been had, gave them a dirty look before slinking away, her dignity bruised but not hurt.

“Did you see her face?” Dash said between laughs.

Duke nodded, still chuckling. “Best prank ever, Dash. I don’t think she’ll be walking around like a snob anymore.”

As they calmed down, the boys were so proud of their successful prank that they were already thinking about their next adventure.





5 – MUFFIN RETALIATES

A few days after Duke and Dash pulled the epic prank on Muffin, they went outside to play.

“Hey Dash,” Duke said, “what did you do with the ball?”

“I didn’t do anything with it,” Dash exclaimed. “I left it right under that tree last night when I came in the house for supper.”

“Well, it’s disappeared,” Duke stated sadly. “What are we going to play with?”

Dash replied, “I know what we can do; let’s look around the yard. Maybe the wind blew it somewhere.”

The friends sniffed around the fence, bushes, and even the flower beds but couldn’t find the ball.

All of a sudden Dash jumped back in fear and shouted, “Yikes! What’s this?”

Duke ran over to see what Dash was staring at and came face-to-face with a HUGH, BLACK, FURRY SPIDER!

“I think it’s what they call a ta-ta-tarantula,” stammered Duke with fear in his voice as he backed away.

Duke had never seen such a big spider before, and yet there was something odd about it. The spider didn’t move but stood perfectly still by the edge of the flower bed.

“Maybe it’s getting ready to pounce,” Dash whispered, not wanting to disturb it.

Just then, it dawned on Duke—that spider wasn’t real. It was one of those Halloween props he had seen before.

But how did it get there?

“Dash, it’s a fake spider,” Duke yelled. “Look, it’s not moving,” as he poked the spider cautiously with his paw.

Dash breathed a sigh of relief. “Whew, I wonder who put it there?”

The buddies didn’t have to wonder for long. They heard playful laughter coming from across the yard.

“Heh, heh, heh,” Muffin snickered as she peeked out from behind the tree. “I got you good!”

“Ha, ha, ha,” the dogs giggled, “you sure did—you’re a sneaky cat!”

At that moment, Muffin batted the lost ball (she had hidden) over to the boys. “Here you go,” she said, “have fun.”

“She’s not such a bad critter after all,” said Dash.

From then on, the pups were good friends with their next-door neighbor.

* * *

On a different note, Dash picked up the fake spider with his mouth and brought it into the house. He dropped it in his dad’s lap—this caused quite a fuss. Hee, hee, hee.

Muffin sure knew how to play a good prank.



6 – TRADING JOKES

“Duke, I’ve got a good one for you.” Dash said, his eyes gleaming with mischief. “Why did the dog sit in the shade?”

“I don’t know, Dash. Why?” Duke replied, tilting his head in curiosity.

“Because he didn’t want to be a hot dog!” Dash barked, bursting into laughter.

Duke chuckled. “Alright, alright, that’s a good one. But check this out: Why do dogs run in circles?”

“Hmm, I don’t know. Why do they?” Dash asked, his eyebrows raised with interest.

“Because it’s too hard to run in squares!” Duke answered, laughing as Dash rolled over in a fit of giggles.

“Okay, Duke, here’s another one for you: What kind of dog does Dracula have?”

“Oh, this sounds spooky. What kind?” Duke asked, leaning in.

“A bloodhound!” Dash said, laughing so hard his tail wagged like crazy.

Duke laughed along. “Good one, Dash! Here’s one for you: What do you call a dog magician?”

“I have no idea. What?” Dash asked, eyes wide with anticipation.

“A labra-cadabra-dor!” Duke answered, grinning from ear to ear.

Dash howled with laughter. “You’re on a roll, Duke! One more from me: Why did the Dalmatian hide?”

“Why did he hide?” Duke asked, intrigued.

“Because he didn’t want to be spotted!” Dash exclaimed, both dogs now rolling on the ground in fits of laughter.

As their laughter died down, Duke gave Dash a friendly nudge. “We make a pretty good comedy duo, huh?”

“Definitely, Duke,” Dash agreed, still chuckling. “We should go on tour!”

With that, the two friends continued their playful jokes, filling the air with joy and laughter.





7 – COYOTE ESCAPE

“**Y**ou won’t believe what happened to me yesterday,” Dash said, still a bit shaken but with a hint of pride in his eyes.

“What now, Dash? Did you run into another alien?” Duke teased.

“No, this was serious,” Dash replied, his tone making Duke sit up and listen attentively. “So, I was in the backyard, doing my usual rounds, sniffing around and patrolling the fence. Suddenly, I noticed a strange hole in the corner where the fence meets the ground. I got really curious, and I started digging.

“Before I knew it, I had wriggled my way under the fence and was free! I felt like an explorer, running through the field and into the woods beyond. I felt so free... until I heard it. The low growl of something big.

“I froze, ears twitching, and then I saw them—a pair of glowing eyes in the bushes. A COYOTE! It started creeping towards me, and I knew I had to act fast or I would be his lunch.

“I remembered Dad always telling me to stay calm and think. So, instead of running in a panic, I barked as loud as I could and snarled, showing my sharp fangs. I wanted to make myself seem bigger and more threatening.

“The coyote was taken by surprise; he paused because he was not expecting such a bold reaction. I took that moment to slowly back away, still barking and snarling, and then I turned and bolted back towards the hole under the fence. They don’t call me Dash for nothing. I squeezed through the hole just in time to the safety of my yard.

“Dad found me panting and dirty, and when he investigated, he realized I had dug under the fence. He patched up the hole right away and was so relieved that I had come back that he gave me extra cuddles. So yeah, Duke, I had a close call, but I kept my cool and got out of it. Not bad for a backyard patrol, huh?”

Duke’s eyes were wide with admiration. “Dash, you’re a hero! Next time I think about chasing something scary, I’ll remember your story. Glad you’re safe, buddy.”

Dash grinned, his tail wagging. “Thanks, Duke. Just another day in the life of Dash the Brave!”





8 – BATH TIME

“Guess what happened to me before you came to live here!” Duke said, his tail wagging furiously.

“Oh, this sounds good. Tell me everything!” Dash replied, ears perked up.

“Well, it had rained at night,” Duke exclaimed with excitement, “and when I went outside in the morning there was this glorious mud puddle just waiting for me to roll in!”

“Did you jump in?” asked Dash.

“Yes, I did,” Duke said with enthusiasm. “I rolled all over that puddle and was covered in mud from head-to-paw—it felt wonderful!”

“However, when I came in the house, Mom gasped and immediately carried me to the bathroom and shut the door. She told me I needed a bath.

“You know how much I hate baths, right? Anyway, she filled up the tub and called me over. But I wasn’t going to make it easy for her. I darted under a chair, making her chase me all over the bathroom.

“Finally, she cornered me and lifted me into the tub. I was resigned to my fate, sitting there like a soggy loaf of bread. But then I got this bright idea. You know how we dogs shake ourselves off, right? Well, I decided to do it while I was still in the tub. Water and mud went everywhere! It was like a muddy bomb had gone off in the bathroom.

“Mom was drenched, the floor was soaked, the walls had mud spatters, and the look on her face was priceless! But that wasn’t even the best part. While she was busy trying to dry herself and the floor, I saw my chance. I jumped out of the tub and ran straight to the bath mat, rolling all over it. Wet dog smell everywhere!

“Mom saw the mess and just sighed. But then she couldn’t help but laugh. She said I was a naughty boy. She took a video of me rolling on the mat and the muddy mess I had created. Then she sent the video to that TV show, ‘Family’s Funniest Videos.’ It won \$10,000!”

Dash laughed and then exclaimed, “Duke, you’re so silly! Next time, let me know when you’re getting a bath. I want to see the show!”





9 – FOREST TREASURE

It was a crisp fall day when Mom and Dad took Duke and Dash out to the country to visit Grandpa’s farm. Soon the boys set off into the woods behind the house. The leaves crunched under their paws, and the air was filled with the scent of pine and earth. They loved exploring the forest, always on the lookout for new adventures.

“Duke, let’s head down the trail by the old oak tree,” Dash suggested, his nose twitching with excitement.

“Good idea, Dash,” Duke agreed, trotting ahead. “We haven’t been that way in a while.”

They followed the winding path, their eyes darting around, taking in the sights of the woods with their noses close to the ground, catching all the interesting scents. Suddenly, Dash stopped in his tracks; his ears perked up.

“Duke, do you see that?” Dash whispered, pointing with his nose to a small, brown object half-buried in the dirt beside the big oak.

Duke approached cautiously and began to dig around the object. As the dirt fell away, an ancient leather pouch that was

fastened with a leather strap was revealed—it smelled like old deer hide.

“Wow, this looks really old,” Duke said, examining the pouch closely. “I wonder what’s in it?”

Dash nudged the pouch with his nose. “Let’s open it and find out!”

With some effort, Duke tugged at the strap to open the parcel. Inside, they found a rolled-up piece of paper, tied with a thin, red ribbon. Carefully, they unrolled the paper and saw that it was a map.

“Looks like a treasure map!” Dash exclaimed, his tail wagging furiously. “This is so cool!”

Duke studied the map. “It shows landmarks in the woods. Look, there’s the old oak tree, the creek, and... what’s that?”

Dash squinted at the map. “It looks like an X, and it’s near the big rock by the creek. That must be where the treasure is!”

The two dogs, filled with excitement, followed the map’s directions. They went past the old oak tree, crossed the creek, and finally reached the big rock.

“Okay, the map says the treasure should be right here,” Duke said, looking around.



They began to dig around the base of the rock. After a few minutes, their paws hit something hard. It was a small wooden box with a rounded top and metal handles on the outside. It had a faint smell—like cedar.

The dogs worked together to open the latch on the box. Inside, they found some old coins, a few pieces of jewelry, a couple of aged photos, and a small, tattered journal.

“Whoa, we found real treasure!” Dash exclaimed, eyes wide with amazement.

Dash nodded. “We should take this back and show our parents. They’ll know what to do with it.”

The two friends slowly dragged the box back home by grabbing the handles with their mouths and pulling, eager to share their discovery. Mom and Dad were just as amazed as they were, and together, they pieced together the story from the journal. It turned out the treasure had belonged to a settler who had lived in the area over a century ago.

The boys became local heroes, their discovery making headlines in the town newspaper, and the treasure was donated to the local museum. From that day on, the boys were known not just as adventurous dogs but as detectives and treasure hunters, always ready for the next mystery waiting to be solved.





10 – LOST PUPPY

The boys were so excited as they set off for a walk with Dad to their favorite park. The air was fresh, and the birds were singing. The park was alive with the sounds of children playing, squirrels chattering, and leaves rustling in the gentle breeze.

“Let’s race to the pond!” Dash barked excitedly, sprinting ahead.

“You’re on!” Duke replied, his legs pumping as he chased after his best friend.

As they neared the pond, they heard a soft whimpering sound. Duke skidded to a stop and pricked up his ears. “Did you hear that, Dash?”

Dash nodded, his eyes scanning the area. “It sounds like a puppy.”

Following the sound, they found a small, trembling puppy hiding in a mossy nook of a tree. The puppy had big frightened eyes and was whimpering softly.

“Hey there, little one,” Duke said gently, approaching the puppy. “Are you lost?”

The puppy nodded, his tiny body shaking. “I was playing with my family, and I got distracted by a butterfly. When I looked up, they were gone.”

Dash felt sorry for the scared puppy. He said, “Don’t worry. We’ll help you find your family. Right, Duke?”

“Yes we will,” Duke agreed, nodding his head. “We’re going to get you home.”

The dogs returned to Dad with the small puppy following. “Who do you belong to, little guy?” asked Dad. “We’ll help you find your family.” He then snapped the leashes on the boys’ collars and commanded, “Find the owner!”

They all began looking around the park for clues, with the dogs sniffing the ground for any familiar scents. Duke and Dash knew the park well, and they checked all the usual spots where people and dogs liked to hang out. Dad talked to any people he met, and the dogs were able to ask other animals in the park if they had seen a family looking for a lost puppy.

They first came upon a friendly squirrel named Squeaky. “Hey, Squeaky, have you seen anyone looking for a lost puppy?” Duke asked.





Squeaky twitched his nose and thought for a moment. “I saw a family near the big oak tree a while ago. They looked worried and were calling out, but I didn’t hear what they were saying.”

“Thanks, Squeaky!” Dash said. “Let’s head to the big oak tree.”

When they reached the oak tree, they found more clues: the scent of humans mixed with the faint scent of the puppy. They followed the trail through the park and into the neighborhood, the puppy staying close by their side.

As they walked further, they met a wise old cat named Whiskers walking down an alley. “Whiskers, have you seen a family searching for a lost puppy?” Dash asked.

Whiskers yawned and stretched. “I saw a family posting fliers a few blocks down. They seemed quite upset.”

“Thank you, Whiskers!” Duke said, wagging his tail.



They followed Whiskers' directions and soon spotted the fliers with a picture of the lost puppy and a phone number. The puppy's tail wagged with excitement as he saw his picture on the flier.

"That's my family!" the puppy exclaimed.

Dad pulled out his phone and punched in the phone number. The boys could hear it ringing, then someone answered, "Hello?" Dad replied, "We found your lost puppy!"

After Dad got directions, they all walked down the street toward the puppy's home. They soon came to a house with a sign in the front yard that read, "Lost Puppy—Please Help Us Find Our Beloved Pet!"

As they came near the front door, the puppy began to bark excitedly. The door opened, and a little girl with tear-streaked cheeks looked out. Her face lit up when she saw the puppy.

"Max! You found him!" she cried, scooping up the puppy and hugging him tightly.

The girl's parents came to the door, and their faces broke into smiles when they saw their daughter reunited with Max.

“Thank you so much,” the mother said, her voice filled with emotion. “We’ve been so worried.”

“We’re just glad Max is back where he belongs,” Dad said. He continued, “My two dogs sniffed out the trail that brought us to your flier—I’m so proud of them.”

The family invited everyone in for some water and treats as a token of their gratitude.

“We make a great team, don’t we, Duke?” Dash asked, licking his lips as he munched on a treat.

“The best team,” Duke agreed.

With their mission complete and hearts full, they trotted back home with Dad, ready for their next adventure and knowing that their friendship and teamwork helped them overcome this challenge.





11 – DOG DETECTIVES

As the moonlight bathed the backyard in a soft glow, Duke and Dash lay side by side, gazing up at the stars. The day had been full of excitement, and now it was time to unwind and share stories.

“Duke, I had the coolest dream last night,” Dash began, his eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. “Everything seemed so real.”

“Really? What was it about?” Duke asked with curiosity in his voice.

Dash grinned. “Okay, so in my dream, we were part of a secret dog detective agency. We solved mysteries all over town, helping other animals and making sure justice was served.”

Duke’s ears perked up. “A detective agency? That sounds awesome! Tell me more!”

Dash settled in, ready to recount his adventure. “It all started with us having a hidden headquarters in that old shed in the backyard. Inside, we had all sorts of gadgets and disguises—it kind of reminded me of that great detective Sherlock Holmes.

“Our agency was called ‘Paws & Claws Detectives,’ and our mission was to solve mysteries and help those in need.”

Duke nodded, already enthralled. “What kind of mysteries did we solve?”

“Well,” Dash began, “our first case was about stolen bones. Dogs all over town were missing their favorite bones, and they were really upset. We found a series of paw prints leading to an empty old house. Inside, we discovered a sneaky raccoon named Racco who had been stealing the bones for himself.”

“How did we handle Racco?” Duke asked.

“We tried to talk with him,” Dash said. “We told him it wasn’t fair to take things that didn’t belong to him.”

“I bet Racco wasn’t too happy,” Duke said with a sly grin.

“No, he wasn’t,” snickered Dash. “He snarled at us, ‘Finders keepers, losers weepers.’”

“Oh, no,” said Duke. “How did we deal with this?”

Dash exclaimed, “We calmly reasoned with him and asked him how he would like it if others took his things. After Racco thought about it, he finally said he was sorry and agreed to return all the bones. We even helped him find some other food so he wouldn’t try to steal again.”



Duke nodded. “Sounds like we did a good job there.”

Dash continued, “Another case was about strange things happening in the park. Lights flashing, odd noises, and things moving on their own. We checked it out and found that it wasn’t a ghost at all but only a sneaky group of puppies playing pranks. They were using glow sticks and noisemakers to scare everyone. We had a talk with them and made a deal. They agreed to stop the pranks if we gave them some treats and a safe place to play.”

“Wow, we really had our paws full,” Duke said, impressed.

“Yeah, but we always worked together and used our strengths to solve the mysteries,” Dash said with a smile. “In the end, the town was peaceful, and everyone knew they could count on the Paws & Claws Detectives.”

Duke wagged his tail happily. “That sounds like an amazing dream, Dash. I love the idea of us being detectives and helping out our friends.”

Dash nodded. “Me too.”

As they lay under the stars thinking about the dream, the boys felt a deep sense of wonder. Maybe one day, their desire for a detective agency would come true.





12 – TIME TRAVELERS

Lounging on their blanket in the backyard, the boys were enjoying the bright sunny day as they watched the puffy clouds drift slowly in the sky. Dash wistfully murmured, “That one looks like a poodle.”

“It sure does,” said Duke, “and that one over there looks like a bunny.”

“Ha, ha, ha,” giggled Dash. “Hey Duke, do you know any good make-believe stories?” Dash asked.

“Yep,” Duke began, his eyes shining with excitement. “Well, it all started with us finding this strange, glowing device in the park. It had buttons and dials all over it, and when we touched it, there was a bright flash of light. The next thing we knew, we were sent to a different time and place!”

Dash’s eyes widened. “Wow, that sounds amazing! Where did we go?”

Duke settled in, ready to share his adventure. “Our first stop was ancient Egypt. We found ourselves in the middle of a busy marketplace surrounded by tall, pointy pyramids. The people were wearing robes and sandals, and there were camels everywhere.”

“Ancient Egypt? That must have been incredible!” Dash exclaimed. “What did we do there?”

“We explored the pyramids, of course!” Duke said, wagging his tail. “We met a friendly Egyptian boy named Babu who showed us around. He told us about the pharaohs (Egyptian kings) and the treasures hidden inside the pyramids. We even helped him solve a puzzle to open a secret chamber filled with ancient artifacts, but we only peeked and didn’t touch anything out of respect.”

Dash grinned. “That sounds like so much fun! Did we go anywhere else?”

“Yes,” Duke nodded, “after Egypt, we touched the device, and it sent us to a big city in the future—modern New York City.

“The buildings were tall and shiny, and there were flying cars zooming all over. We met a robot named Zebo who showed us around. The city was full of all kinds of amazing things.”

“A futuristic New York City? That sounds awesome! Did we get to try any of the cool gadgets?” Dash asked, his eyes sparkling with curiosity.



“Yes! We got to ride in a flying car and flew all over the city. It was great! When we landed, we jumped into this magic pod—it kind of reminded me of stepping into an elevator,” Duke said. “Then Zebo pushed a button in the pod, and it instantly sent us to another country. When we stepped out of the pod,” Duke said, “we were thousands of miles away in futuristic England.”

“Wow, another country,” cried Dash. “What did we do there?”

“Well, we ate fish and chips,” Duke said. “We were getting hungry, and some things just don’t change even in modern England. You know me, I like to eat.”

“Yeah, I know,” said Dash with a smile.

Duke went on, “After we ate, we jumped back in the pod and zipped back to futuristic New York City at the same location we had come from. It was a thrilling adventure!”

“Sounds like we had quite the journey,” Dash said, wagging his tail. “But how did we get back home?”

“That was the tricky part,” Duke said. “We had to figure out how to use the time machine to return to our own time. With a little luck and Zebo’s help, we were able to activate the device. We said goodbye to the robot, then, after a blinding flash of light, we found ourselves back in the park, right where we started.”

“That’s fantastic! We must have learned so much from each place we visited,” Dash said.

“We did,” Duke agreed. “Each place taught us something new. From ancient Egypt, we learned about history and the importance of preserving the past. In the futuristic New York City, we saw how new inventions could improve our lives. But the best part of this whole adventure was returning home to the present, where our family lived. There’s no place like home.”

“Whew!” Dash sighed with relief. “I’m glad we made it back safely. What a story!”



13 – PET SHOW

The “Amazing Pet Show” was just a week away, and Duke and Dash could feel the energy in the air as they practiced new tricks and learned new commands. They were determined to give their best performance.

“Duke, we need to nail our routine,” Dash said, wagging his tail real fast. “We’ve got to impress the judges!” “You know that this year is all about running and jumping.” Dash continued, “Wouldn’t it be great to make Mom and Dad proud of us?”

“Yes, it would,” Duke replied, his ears perking up. “We’ve been practicing hard, and I know we can do it. But remember, it’s also about having fun.”

As they continued their training, they noticed a small, shy Yorkie puppy named Bella watching them from a distance. She had recently moved to the neighborhood and seemed interested but too nervous to join in.

“Hey there, Bella,” Duke called out gently. “Why don’t you come practice with us?”

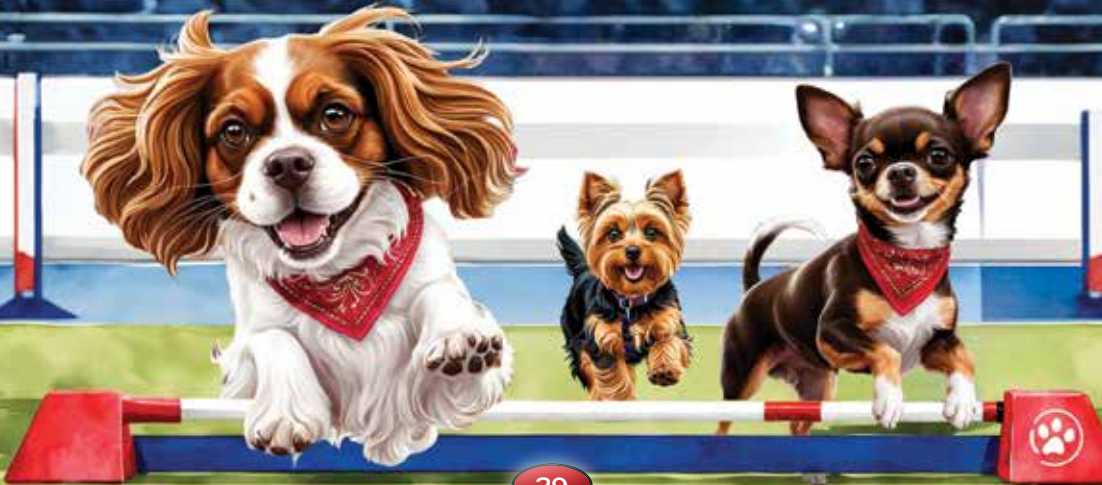
Bella hesitated, her little tail wagging timidly. “I don’t know... I’m not very good at tricks. I don’t want to mess up. And... and, I’m so small.”

Dash ran over with a friendly smile. “Everyone starts somewhere! We were all beginners once. Come on, we’ll help you.”

With some help from Duke and Dash, Bella slowly gained the confidence to try some simple tricks. They showed her how to sit, stay, and roll over, praising her every step of the way, but she was still having trouble jumping through a hoop. It was just too high for her. So, every time she tried a trick, they gave her lots of praise for trying even if she didn’t get it just right.

“That’s it, Bella! You’re doing great!” Duke said, giving her a reassuring nod.

The days flew by as the three friends practiced together. Bella’s confidence grew with each passing day, and soon she was performing tricks alongside the boys with ease. The bond between them grew stronger, and they shared plenty of laughs and tail wags along the way.



Finally, the day of the pet show arrived. The park was transformed into a lively arena, filled with excited pets and their owners. Duke and Dash wore matching bandannas, while Bella sported a new diamond collar that sparkled in the sunlight.

As they waited for their turn, Duke noticed Bella looking a bit nervous. “Hey, remember what we talked about. Just have fun out there. We’re all here to support each other.”

Bella nodded, taking a deep breath. “Thanks, Duke. I’ll do my best.”

The show kicked off with a parade of pets, each showing off their special talents. There were dogs running through agility courses, cats doing graceful leaps, and even a parrot reciting poems. When it was their turn, the boys and Bella stepped onto the stage, ready to shine.

Their routine started with a series of tricks they all did together side-by-side at the same time, earning cheers and applause from the crowd. The boys led Bella through the moves they had practiced, and she did them flawlessly. The three friends moved in perfect harmony, their tails wagging in unison.

For their last trick, they added sound effects; it started with a drummer playing a rapid drum roll, “Rat-a-tat-tat, rat-a-tat-tat.” Then Duke and Dash ran out on stage and jumped through a large hoop together. Little Bella ran in front of them and did a playful spin, as the drummer ended with the crash of a cymbal, “Ka-plow.” The audience exploded in applause, and the judges smiled approvingly.

After their performance, they met backstage, panting happily. “We did it!” Dash exclaimed. “Bella, you were amazing—I’m so proud of you!”

Bella beamed, her eyes shining with joy. “I couldn’t have done it without you two. Thank you for believing in me and being so nice to me.”

As the judges added up the scores, the friends knew whether they won or not, they had already gained something special. They had formed a bond that went beyond the tricks and commands.

When the results were announced, the boys and Bella were awarded a special gold medal for teamwork and persistence. The crowd cheered and clapped as they took their place on the stage, tails wagging proudly. They looked out at the audience and saw Mom and Dad beaming with pride—Mom even had tears in her eyes.

“Today was about more than just winning,” Duke said, looking at his friends. “It was about kindness, friendship, and having fun.”

Bella smiled, her confidence soaring. “I’m so glad I joined you guys. This has been the best day ever!”





14 –THE FESTIVAL

Yippee! The annual town festival was finally here, and the boys could barely contain their excitement. The air was filled with the sounds of laughter, music, and the delicious aroma of food from the various stalls lining the streets. Brightly colored banners and balloons decorated every corner, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Mom and Dad were there too. They had a table set up where they sold their mouth-watering toffee.

“Duke, look at all these games and activities!” Dash exclaimed, his tail wagging furiously. “I can’t wait to try everything!”

“Me too, Dash,” Duke replied, his eyes shining with excitement. “Let’s make the most of it!”

The two friends started their day by exploring the different games. They tried their paws at ring toss, sack races, and even a fun obstacle course designed for dogs. With each activity, they

met new friends, including other dogs, friendly vendors, and excited children who petted and played with them.

As they were wandering through the festival, they came across a worried-looking vendor named Hank. He was pacing back and forth in front of his stall, glancing around anxiously.

Duke sensed the man was in distress. Then he overheard Hank saying to his friend, “I’m just really worried. My cat, Tiger, went missing this morning, and I haven’t been able to find her. She’s never been outside alone before.”

The friend asked, “What does she look like?”

Hank replied, “She’s a small striped cat with a white patch on her chest, and she’s wearing a blue collar that has a tag with her name on it. She’s very friendly but might be scared with all the noises.”

Dash’s ears perked up. He said to Duke, “We can help! We’re pretty good at finding things.”

Determined to help, the pups took a deep sniff of Tiger’s cat bed that was under Hank’s table. They then set off on their mission to find Tiger’s scent, which wasn’t easy. There were so many scents—cotton candy, popcorn, and fried chicken, to name a few. The delicious smells were making them hungry as they sniffed around.

Duke’s mouth watered when he noticed a man eating a juicy hot dog—it smelled so good. Just then the weenie slipped out of the hot dog bun and hit the ground right in front of Duke. The man screamed, “Oh, noooooo!”

Without thinking, Duke gulped the wiener down in one bite. Then he noticed Dash standing there. “Oops,” said Duke with a sheepish grin on his face. “Sorry,” he said, “I’m still working on sharing—I just lost my head.”

Dash replied, “It’s okay, brother; I probably would have done the same thing—I understand.”



Suddenly, Dash caught a familiar scent. “Duke, over here! I think I’ve found her trail.”

They followed the scent through the crowd, under tables, and around booths. Finally, they spotted a little striped cat with a blue collar hiding under a bench, looking scared and lost.

“There she is,” Duke whispered. “Let’s approach her slowly so we don’t scare her away.”

They carefully inched closer, and Dash spoke softly. “Hi, Tiger. We’re friends of Hank. He’s really worried about you. We can take you back to him.”

Tiger looked at them with wide eyes but seemed to understand. Slowly, she crept out from under the bench and allowed the dogs to lead her back through the festival.

When they arrived at Hank’s stall, the man’s face lit up with relief. “Tiger! Oh, thank you so much, boys! You’ve really saved the day.”

Tiger nuzzled against Hank, purring contentedly. Duke and Dash felt so happy that they had helped.

The rest of the day was filled with even more fun and excitement. The boys joined in a parade, trotting proudly with their new friends and showing off their festive bandannas that

Mom had bought for them. They enjoyed treats from the food stalls, played more games, and had a wonderful time.

As the sun began to set, the festival grounds were bathed in a golden glow. Mom and Dad had laid a red plaid blanket on the ground so they would have a nice spot to sit and watch the fireworks show. The pups snuggled up beside them and quietly thought about the day's adventures.

As the fireworks began to light up the night sky, the boys knew that this festival would be a happy memory for years to come.

"Dash, today was amazing," Duke said, gazing at the colorful lights twinkling around them. "We had so much fun and got to help out a friend in need."

"Absolutely, Duke," Dash replied, his tail wagging gently. "It just goes to show that festivals are not just about the fun and games, but also about coming together and helping each other."





15 – CAMPING TRIP

The sun was just beginning to rise when the boys hopped into the car, their tails wagging in anticipation. They were going camping with their family in a nearby forest, and the adventure had already begun. The drive was filled with excitement as they gazed out the window at the passing scenery.

After setting up camp, Duke and Dash were eager to explore. The forest was a big playground of sights and smells, with tall trees and rustling leaves. They jumped through the underbrush, sniffing around and sometimes stopping to chase a squirrel or two.

“Duke, this place is amazing!” Dash exclaimed, his nose twitching as he picked up a new scent.

“It sure is, Dash,” Duke replied. “Let’s go see if we can find some good sticks for the campfire.”

The two friends looked all over the forest, picking up twigs and branches. They worked together, dragging their finds back to the campsite where their family was setting up the fire pit. The sun began to dip below the horizon, casting a warm glow over the campsite as the fire crackled to life.

As the family settled around the campfire, roasting marshmallows and sharing stories, the pups lay quietly by their sides, almost falling asleep. The stars twinkled in the sky, and the gentle sounds of the forest made a soothing backdrop.

Suddenly, the peaceful evening was interrupted by a distant cry for help. Duke and Dash's ears perked up, and they exchanged a worried glance.

"Did you hear that?" Dash barked excitedly.

"Yeah," Duke said, already on his feet. "It sounded like someone's in trouble."

They followed the sound, their keen senses guiding them through the darkening forest. The cries grew louder, leading them to a worried hiker sitting on a rock, clutching his ankle.





“Help! Over here!” the hiker called out, relief washing over his face when he saw the dogs coming toward him.

Dash trotted over and gently nuzzled the hiker’s hand, while Duke barked to signal their presence. “Hang in there, we’ll get help,” Duke assured him, even though he knew the hiker couldn’t understand him.

The two dogs quickly ran back to the campsite, barking loudly to alert their family. They kept barking, and then they would run a few steps back into the forest, trying to get Dad to follow them. Mom and Dad knew something was wrong, so they grabbed their flashlights and followed the pups into the woods.

The boys led them straight to the hiker, who was holding his ankle. “Thank you,” the hiker said, his voice trembling. “I twisted my ankle, and I think it’s broken. I didn’t know if anyone would hear me.”

The family contacted the local ranger station, and soon a rescue team arrived to help the hiker. The boys watched as the rescuers carefully put him onto a stretcher, their tails wagging with relief.

“You two did an amazing job,” one of the rescuers said, patting the dogs. “You may have saved this man’s life!”

As the rescue team carried the hiker away, the family returned to their campsite, and everyone settled down by the campfire.

Duke looked at Dash and said, “We really made a difference tonight, Dash.”

“Yeah, we did,” Dash agreed, nuzzling his friend. “And now we can relax and enjoy the rest of our camping trip.”

The night continued peacefully, filled with the quiet sounds of the forest and the warmth of the fire. The boys dozed off, dreaming of their next adventure.





16 – BEACH ADVENTURE

The sun was shining brightly as Duke and Dash bounced around excitedly in the backseat of the car. Today was a special day—a day trip to the beach with their family! The drive seemed to take forever, but soon enough, they could smell the salty air and hear the waves crashing against the shore.

As soon as the car door opened, the boys bolted out, their paws sinking into the warm, soft sand. They raced each other to the water's edge, barking joyfully as the waves lapped at their feet.

“Duke, this is amazing!” Dash exclaimed, splashing into the shallow water.

“I know, right? I’ve been waiting for this all week!” Duke replied, his tail wagging furiously.

The family set up a spot on the beach with a colorful umbrella, towels, and a cooler full of food and treats. Duke and Dash were ready for action. They spent the morning swimming in the ocean, their fur soaked as they paddled through the gentle waves. They played fetch with their favorite ball, chasing it as far as their family could throw it, and digging holes in the sand, their noses covered in grains of sand.

After hours of fun, they decided to take a break and explore the beach. As they wandered along the shoreline, sniffing the salty breeze, they noticed something small and peculiar scuttling across the sand.

“Hey, Duke, what’s that?” Dash asked, his head tilted in curiosity.

Duke squinted and leaned in closer to get a better look. It was a hermit crab, its shell painted with bright colors. The little crab, however, didn’t seem too happy to see them. It quickly retreated into its shell, peeking out with beady eyes.

“Hi there!” Duke greeted, wagging his tail. “We’re Duke and Dash. What’s your name?”

The hermit crab grumbled from inside its shell. He was a strange, grumpy little creature that spoke in rhymes. He said gruffly,

*“I’m Kermit the hermit,
And dogs I don’t like.
So leave me alone,
And take a hike.”*





Dash's ears drooped a little. "Oh, we didn't mean to bother you, Kermit. We're just exploring the beach and thought we'd say hello."

Kermit slowly emerged from his shell, his tiny claws tapping on the sand. He muttered under his breath,

*"Dogs are so loud,
They're always such a riot.
It's hard for a hermit crab,
To find peace and quiet."*

Duke sat down, trying to appear as non-threatening as possible. "We can be a bit noisy, I guess. But we didn't know we were disturbing you. The beach is just so exciting!"

Dash nodded rapidly. "We didn't realize this was your home. We'll try to be more careful."

Kermit eyed them suspiciously. He said slowly,

*"If you promise to be good,
I'll come out of my shell,
I'll try to be friendly,
And chat for a spell."*

“Promise,” both boys said together, their tails wagging.

Kermit seemed to relax a little, his claws no longer raised, ready to defend himself. He told them that he was looking for a new shell because he had outgrown the one he was living in. It was just too small.

“We can help you look!” Dash offered, eager to make up for their noisy greeting.

“Yeah! We’re really good at finding things,” Duke added.

The little crab thought about this for a moment and then agreed to let the boys help, but he didn’t want any funny business.

The three of them set off, searching for a suitable shell. The dogs used their keen senses to sniff out various shells along the beach, presenting each one to Kermit for approval. Some were too big, others too small, but eventually they found a shell that was just right.

Kermit happily exclaimed,

*“This shell is just perfect,
It’s so roomy and spacious.
Thank you, my friends,
You are both very gracious.”*

“You’re welcome!” Duke replied, wagging his tail proudly. We were glad to help.”

As the sun set, the pups settled down and thought about their day’s adventure. They smiled, knowing that they had made a new friend, even if he was a bit crabby at first.





17 – TEACHER’S PETS

One morning, Duke and Dash were sitting in the living room when their mom came in with a big smile on her face. “Guess what, boys? You’ve been invited to visit a classroom today! The students are learning about pets, and they want to meet you.”

Duke’s ears perked up, and Dash’s tail started wagging excitedly. “A classroom? With kids?” Duke asked, his eyes bright with curiosity.

“Yeah! I love kids!” Dash barked, already imagining all the pats and belly rubs he might get.

Mom laughed and gave them each a gentle pat on the head. “You’re going to help the students learn about how to take care of pets. It’s a big job, but I know you two are up for it.”

After getting their collars and leashes on, Duke and Dash hopped into the car, eagerly looking forward to their new

adventure. The drive wasn't long, and soon they arrived at the local elementary school. The building was alive with activity, with children playing outside and teachers preparing for the day ahead.

As they entered the classroom, the students' faces lit up with excitement. "Look, it's the dogs!" one of the kids exclaimed, and soon many happy voices filled the room.

Mom led the boys to the front of the class, and the teacher, Mrs. Brown, introduced them. She said, "Everyone, this is Duke and Dash. They're here to help us learn about pets and how to take care of them."

The students sat in a circle, their eyes wide with anticipation. Duke and Dash sat calmly in the middle, tails wagging gently as they looked at the room full of eager faces.

Mrs. Brown began the lesson by asking the students what they thought was important when it came to taking care of pets. Hands shot up, and the students started sharing their ideas.

"Pets need food and water," one student said.

"They need to go for walks," another added.

"And they need lots of love!" a third chimed in.





The pups nodded, pleased to see that the students already knew some of the basics. The teacher smiled and continued the lesson. “That’s right! Pets need to be fed, exercised, and loved. But they also need to be trained and taught good behavior so they can be safe and happy.”

To show the kids, the dogs took turns doing some of the commands they knew. First, Duke walked calmly on his leash, stopping when his mom said “sit” and waiting patiently until he was told to move again. The students clapped and cheered, awed by Duke’s training.

Then, Mom put a treat on the floor in front of Duke and said, “Sit.” Duke quickly gulped the treat down and then sat down. All the children roared with laughter. Mom said, “We’re still working on this—Duke does love his treats.”

Next it was Dash’s turn. He proudly showed off his “stay” command, sitting still while Mom stepped away. Even with the students calling his name, he stayed put. Then Mom put a treat on the floor in front of him and said “stay”—he didn’t budge. All the kids clapped with joy at how well Dash obeyed.

“You see,” the teacher explained, “training helps pets know what’s expected of them. It also keeps them safe. For example,

knowing commands like ‘stay’ can keep them from running across the street when a car is coming.”

The students nodded, clearly interested in the lesson. The teacher then asked, “What about when you first get a pet? What do you need to do?”

Duke and Dash listened as the students talked about visiting the vet, getting shots, and making sure pets have a safe place to sleep. Mrs. Brown added, “It’s also important to spend time with your pets every day. Remember they are members of your family.”

As the lesson continued, the kids had a chance to pet the pups. They took turns patting them, asking questions, and even learning how to brush their fur. The dogs loved the attention, enjoying the gentle hands and kind voices of the children.

One student asked, “How do you know when your pet is happy?”

The teacher smiled and said, “You can tell by how they act. See how Duke’s tail is wagging slowly? That means he’s content. And Dash’s relaxed ears show that he’s comfortable and happy.”

At the end of the visit, Mrs. Brown asked the kids, “What have you learned today about taking care of pets?”

One student summed it up perfectly: “I learned that having a pet is a big job, but it’s also really fun because they become your best friend.”

As the visit came to a close, the students gave the dogs a big round of applause. The teacher thanked them for coming, and the students waved goodbye as they left the classroom.

On the way home, the pups settled down for a well-deserved nap in the back seat of the car. Duke turned to Dash and said, “Today was so fun with those kids; it was a good day, wasn’t it?”

“It sure was,” murmured Dash sleepily, “wouldn’t it be nice if we had a kid in our family?”



18 – NEW KID

One bright spring afternoon, the boys noticed something unusual. Their human parents were standing on the porch, talking to a boy who looked to be about 8 years old. He was carrying a backpack and had a nervous expression on his face.

The dogs exchanged curious glances. They had never seen this boy before, and they wondered what he was doing at their house.

“Who do you think that is?” Duke asked, tilting his head.

“I don’t know,” Dash replied, his tail wagging slowly. “I wonder if he’s coming to stay with us.”

Mom called them over, and as they got closer, she introduced the boy. “Duke, Dash, this is Jake. He’s going to be living with us for a while.”

Jake bent down a bit hesitantly, and reached out to pet the pups. “Hey, guys,” he said quietly, a shy smile forming on his face.

Duke sniffed Jake’s hand, then gave it a gentle lick. Dash, always the more lively of the two, nudged his nose against Jake’s arm, wanting more pets. Jake laughed, and his nervousness seemed to melt away a little.

Mom explained that Jake was a foster child who didn’t have a family of his own at the moment, but they were going to be his

family for as long as he needed. The boys weren't entirely sure what that meant, but they could sense that Jake needed some extra love and attention.

Over the next few days, Jake slowly settled into his new home. Mom and Dad had fixed up the spare room to make a nice bedroom for him. They painted the room white and then added touches of blue, such as a blue bedspread and a blue and white plaid rug. They kept it simple because they wanted Jake to add things he was interested in. They found out that he liked astronomy, so they let him pick out some rocket and star posters for the wall and helped him put glow-in-the-dark, stick-on stars on his ceiling. At night, it looked really cool!

He was quiet and a bit shy, but the dogs could tell that he was kind-hearted. He would sit with them on the couch, quietly petting them while he read or watched TV. The boys wanted to help Jake feel at home, but they weren't sure how to reach out to him.

Then, one morning, something happened.

Jake was sitting on the porch, looking a little down, when Duke suddenly saw, out of the corner of his eye, the movement of something in the backyard. He went over to investigate, and Dash quickly joined him, just as curious. The pups approached cautiously, their tails wagging.

As they got closer, they saw something hiding behind a tree. It was a very small creature with gray, speckled feathers.

"Who is this?" Duke asked, peering at the little guy.

"I'm not sure!" Dash said, his eyes wide with excitement.

But as they looked closer, they realized it was a baby bird hiding and all alone and looking a bit lost. The tiny youngster peeked out from behind the tree and opened its beak as if to say, "Feed me."

"Poor thing," Duke said softly. "It looks scared and hungry."



“Maybe it’s lost,” Dash suggested. “We should help it!”

Just then, Jake, who had been watching them from the porch, came over to see what they were up to. He bent down beside the dogs and spotted the little bird hiding by the tree.

“Wow, a cute baby bird,” Jake said, his voice filled with wonder. “What’s it doing here all by itself?”

The boys looked up at Jake, as if to say, “We’re not sure, but we need to help it.”

WHAM!!! All of a sudden something hit Duke in the head, and there was a lot of noise and loud squawking.

Startled, Duke jumped straight up in the air and did a somersault, trying to get away.

He had just been dive-bombed by the baby bird’s mamma!

Mamma Bird kept it up, diving at and grazing their heads with her beak, until Jake and the boys ran in the house.

They were all laughing so hard—tears were streaming down Jake’s cheeks.

“Hey Duke,” giggled Dash, “you should have seen yourself trying to get away.”

Duke snickered, “Mamma bird sure got me good!”

Jake chuckled, his earlier sadness forgotten. He said with laughter in his voice, “We don’t need to save that baby bird; we need to save us!”

After they had calmed down from all of the excitement, the boys knew they had found something special in Jake as a new member of their family. He was kind, caring, and fun.

* * *

We hope you enjoyed *The Adventures of Duke & Dash*. Be sure to visit the online activity pages. The link is shown at the beginning of each chapter. There are free, fun puzzles and games. AND... Mom, Dad, and the boys are falling in love with Jake. Another book with new adventures will be coming out soon.



Go to www.dukedash.com

The companion website for this book.



Every chapter has a jigsaw puzzle.

The link to these activity pages are found at the front of each chapter.

Some chapters have a photo-match game.



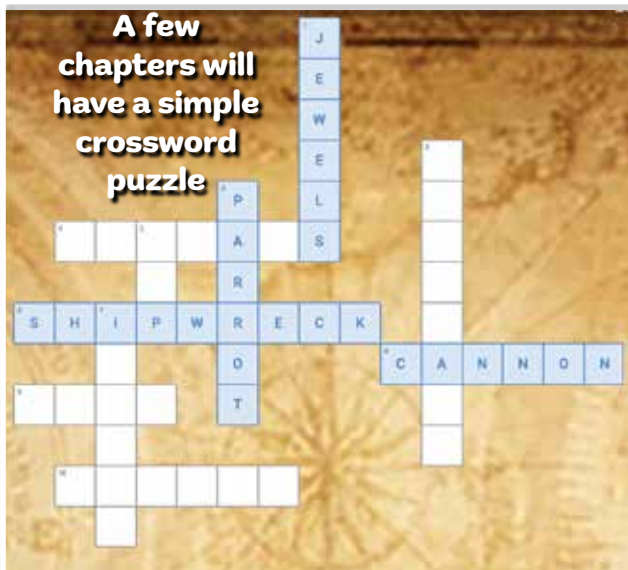
Other chapters may have find-the-difference game.

Access is free to anyone who reads *"The Adventures of Duke & Dash."*

All of the activities at dukedash.com are free and totally child friendly and lots of fun to do.

Duke and Dash have a lot more adventures to share so check back often to see when their next book is coming out.

A few chapters will have a simple crossword puzzle



The Adventures of Duke & Dash

In a small, cozy town nestled between rolling hills and lush forests, live two playful canine buddies, Duke and Dash.

Duke, a fun-loving Cavalier Spaniel with a heart as big as his appetite, and Dash, a quick-witted, energetic Chihuahua mix with a nose for adventure, were more than just pets—Duke and Dash were the town's secret protectors, always ready to lend a paw whenever there was a mystery to solve or a friend in need.

From the moment they met, Duke and Dash formed an unbreakable bond, and their days were filled with thrilling adventures that took them far beyond the safety of their backyard. Whether they were unearthing buried treasures, outsmarting mischievous raccoons, or helping lost animals find their way home, Duke and Dash were always up for a new adventure.

This book is special. Each chapter has a link to a page at the www.dukedash.com website where you will find free puzzles, games, and activities.

www.DukeDash.com

The companion website for this book.

Free puzzles, games, and activities.

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