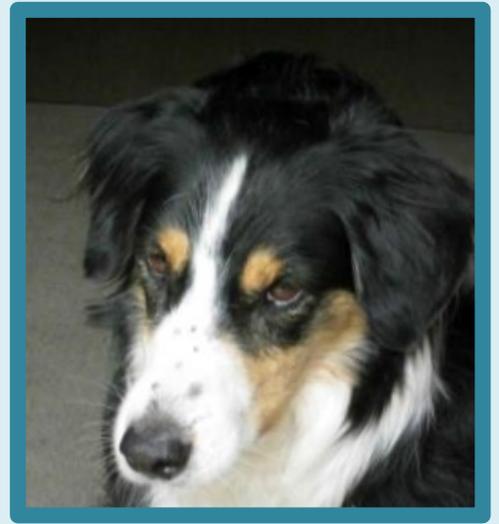


CLANCY'S CLICHES

A Gnu Year! Tradition is to make resolutions—wonderful goals that seem to swiftly be put aside and justified right out of our lives. Justification 101!

I happen to make quarterly “resolutions” on the solstices and equinoxes of the year, and an extra special one on my birthday. Of course, getting off my tail and doing more exercise is always one of them. Arf! Bet you say that, too! I heard shivering counts during the winter as exercise so I’m good-to-go through the winter! But most of my others are “intentions” or “way of life” opportunities more than tangible targets: learn something new, spend more time with family and friends, get more rest (woof-woof!), volunteer one day a month anyplace but not Graeters, be more visible in showing gratitude, bless my food and be aware – from tiny seed to those who nurture it—of how it came to be in my dog bowl, and smile and say bow-wow when passing other dogs *and* humans.



Last year an intention was to do things outside my comfort zone and I ended up someplace in Neverland with Peter Pan! Another time was my “be Proactive rather than complain or yip about something” intention, giving constructive and positive criticism if changes could be made to help others. A result of that one was getting line markings on a very busy street and statistically lowering accidents. Yes, you *can* help make changes in the world, and it helped me be less negative about things I thought I couldn’t change. At least I changed my way and thoughts and tried.

This New Year, meditating on peace will be added to these way-of-life intentions. I will tap my paws together and howl, “Give Peace a Chance, Give Peace a Chance.” Again, it may not move mountains but it may move hearts. And, again, at least I will have changed my own way and thoughts, and tried.

January Jumbles & Jeers:

As always, here are some extra thoughts—plus an early seasonal joke since the Super Bowl is on February 1st!

- 1) I’ve started writing my book, “Poochie Pointers”. ...I’ve got the page numbers done.
- 2) Why was the quarterback crying during the game? Because he was playing Foot-Bawl!
- 3) He who laughs last thinks slowest.
- 4) The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the ability to reach it.
- 5) What is a free gift? Aren’t all gifts free?
- 6) Don’t stand near a bird feeder and catch snowflakes with your tongue. More than birdseed may land in your mouth.
- 7) Glad I’m not a wiener dog in the snow.
- 8) The shortest day has passed - the days are getting longer!
- 9) I need a pedicure—my paws are feeling pretty ruff in this dry weather.
- 10) Buy a bottle of bubbles when it’s below 32 degrees— they’ll freeze in the air! (E-mail pics for the newsletter!)
- 11) January’s “National” days: 4th: 4th-Spaghetti Day (perfect timing for our Epiphany celebration!); 12th—Clean off your desk day (subliminal message here); 21st-Hugging day; 24th-Peanut Butter Day (Fr. Jim’s fave!); 28th-Have Fun At Work Day (I luvvvv my job!).

Howlin’ is hootn’; Growlin’s not gooten!



-Clancy

CLANCY'S CACKLES



Knock-knock. Who’s there? Icy. Icy who? Peek-A-Boo, ICY you!

1. What’s the coldest city in Germany? **Brrrrr-lln!**
2. How do snowmen get to work? **By licles?**
3. What did the ski instructor say as he heard the weather report?**!snow news is good news!**
4. Why did the bee go south for the winter? **!To visit an ant in Florida!**
5. What do you call a snowman in the sauna? **A puddle!**
6. What do snowmen eat? **!Iceburg salad and a bowl of chill!**
7. What do snowmen call their offspring? **! Chill – dren!**