

🎄 CLANCY'S CLICHES 🎄

Look at me! I'm a Rein-Dog! Howl, Howl, Howl! (That's dog-speak for Ho-Ho-Ho!) I'm lookin' like a real haute dog now! Woof Woof!

'Tis the season for gift-giving but rather than the traditional "here Comes Santa Paws" type of gift-giving, I thought I'd make mention of the unexpected gifts in our lives.



As an example, my buddy Betty stops by every Thursday and makes sure she says hello and pats me on the head. But one day, she brought something more than her smile and chuckles—a bag of treats and a new playmate for me. What a delightful surprise!

Another example is when, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but the face of my master after being in Guadalajara. In dog time it was 1.75 years he'd been gone! Seeing him that day was totally "unexpected" and such a gift. So I did what any loyal doggie would do

and licked his face off! Have you provided an unexpected visit to a friend or someone in need? What a great gift!

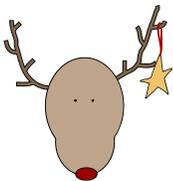
How about those days when it's pouring down rain and you dread going out and when you do, there's a beautiful rainbow right before your eyes. Need I say more about *that* type of unexpected gift?

We've had quite the "zero" birthdays around this place. It's not every day I get the unexpected gift of an extra snack but the partying sure wears me out. Sofa-time!

You can be the provider or providee of the unexpected gift—a phone call, taking care of a chore you usually aren't inclined to do, taking your dog for a walk (hint-hint), or the most endearing and easiest unexpected gift—a smile to strangers, friends or family. In my case, I wag my tail back and forth and in huge circles—and try not to knock things over with it! Love is the ultimate gift—whether you're the receiver or giver. The best gifts come from the heart!



During this special season, pay attention for those unexpected gifts in your life, for the mini-miracles that are there if we only just take a moment to paws and listen and watch. We will experience that unexpected gift in the form of an innocent, pure, baby infant—the universal and unexpected gift and reminder of unconditional love—on Christ-mas Day. Keep that special spirit of Christmas Day in your heart every day of the year!



In closing, here are some seasonal Questions and Antlers

Where do Eskimos train their dogs? . . . *The mushroom!*

Why did the snowman call his dog Frost? . . . *Because Frost bites!*

What is Santa's favorite sandwich? . . . *Peanut Butter and JOLLY!*

Just a little candy cane-nine humor there to get you through the holidays! Time to sing my favorite song..."Deck the Howls"! My wish to you all is what vegetarians wish for at Christmas: PEAS ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TOWARD ALL!



Howlin' is hootin'; Growlin's not gooten! - Clancy

