

# Jake's Jabbers

This year I'm dressing up as 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 to give *and* to receive!

Here's a good one! Provide an unexpected phone or Zoom call to a friend or someone in need just out of the blue. A most *excellent* social-distancing "event". What a great and memorable gift! Props come in handy if you're adventuresome. Think holiday head bobbers, turkey helmet, jingle bells, or watching a holiday show together but in different spaces.

Take-offs of the above idea: Do a recording of yourself singing, telling a story, or even video a few games of Charades or scavenger hunt maps; provide a compilation of recordings of your favorite songs, send an album of photos, or so many other fun things!

How about when, what to my wondering eyes should appear, I see the face of my master after a long day at his parishes. (Keep in mind his eight hours equals three and a half days in dog time!) Seeing him at the end of the day is such a gift. (Plus we get food.) So I do what any loyal doggie would do and lick his face off! Instead of sharing germs, a huge Polar Bear hug works just as well. Virtual hugs are also a great gift!

You can be the provider of a Holiday "care package" aka "thinking of you" package. There are lots of excuses to go dog wild with this one during the next few months...Thanksgiving, St. Nick's, Christmas, New Years, Epiphany, Groundhog Day (ahem, Angela!). Your creativity can put this one over the top. Make sure if food is included in the package the receiver is home, ring the bell, run back to the sidewalk and slip down your mask for a huge smile and wave. That would make anyone's day! Especially if you still have those jingle bells in your paws.

Most of all, remember those most endearing and easiest unexpected gifts. Smile with your eyes at strangers, friends and family. Giggle. Jump up and down. Clap your hands. Often, I wiggle my little tail back and forth, run in circles, and do my poodle tricks, trying not to knock things over. The more you do it, the more you just can't help yourself!

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 to get and give 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. Keep that special spirit of Christmas Day in your heart every day of the year! In closing here are some seasonal questions and antlers!!!

## Jake's Jokes

Where do Eskimos train their dogs?

In the mush room

Why did the snowman call his dog Frost?



Because Frost Bites

What's a cow's favorite holiday?



Peanut Butter and Jolly