

Newfies Save the Day

“Why don’t they answer Daisy?”

“I keep telling you, they can’t understand us. All they can do is make those odd sounds, almost like they’re trying to bark, but can’t figure out how”

“But I wish they could talk back to me” Cozy was almost whining in her frustration.

Daisy looked at her with her typical wisdom induced aplomb. “You’ll just have to learn to accept it Cozy, they cannot understand us no matter how much they try.”

“I swear Gare tries to listen to me, and you know Loll is trying to tell you something don’t you?”

Daisy sighed the sigh of a parent answering endless questions from a child. Cozy was not Daisy’s pup of course, rather her niece. Cozy and Daisy lived together because the humans decided they should,

“Oh c’mon Daisy, Gare has all sorts of names for things. He calls my favorite toy “kong” and sometimes when he loses it he says “gofindit”. When I bring it back to him he seems ever so happy. Don’t you think he’s trying to communicate with us?”

“I suppose, on some simple level they may be, but they don’t seem to understand even the rudiments of our language, so what good are their attempts?”

Cozy lay her head on the cool tile floor and humphed. “I know. I Just wish we could talk. They’re so nice to us and I wish they knew how much we appreciated it.”

“I think they know Cozy. They may not understand us very well, but I get the feeling they know.”

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The car pulled up to the curb and Cozy pushed Daisy out of the way to get out of the car first. Daisy patiently waited her turn and stepped nimbly out of the car.

“Do you smell that Daisy? What’s that smell? I swear I know that smell” Cozy was flittering about like a songbird celebrating the first day of spring.

“That’s the ocean Cozy. You think it smells good? Wait till you see it!”

“Really? The ocean? What’s it like Daisy? Is it really as big as you said? It sure smells good. Let’s go. Why aren’t we going yet?”

“Relax Cozy – you know we can’t go ourselves, we have to wait for our people.”

“But I smell it! How can they not want to run over there? Daisy can you smell it?”

Daisy just grinned, remembering how it was to be ten months old and excited to see the ocean for the first time. “Don’t worry brat, you’ll get there.”

“I am not a brat” Cozy feigned indigence “I’m still a puppy”.

Gare and Loll put Cozy’s and Daisy’s heads in their yellow loops and walked with them towards the wonderful smell. As they all climbed up a ridge the ocean became visible to Cozy for the first time.

“Daisy look!”

“It’s the ocean”

“It’s so big! Look how big Daisy! And the smell! I feel so amazing. What’s that feeling Daisy? I feel so alive!”

“It’s your heritage Cozy. Our ancestors always lived near the ocean. Daisy lifted her majestic head into the wind and took a deep whiff. “It’s in your blood. I feel it too.”

At this point the humans grunted something and started running towards the ocean. The smell of the sea having added fire to their blood, both dogs ran full speed towards the water, almost tripping their people twice.

Once they reached the water Cozy strained against her neck loop, while Daisy stood panting next to her favorite of the two humans, Loll. Loll pulled off Daisy’s loop while Gare tried to pull Cozy away from the water to get a hold of hers.

“Daisy look! Look at all the water! I want to go in! Why can’t I go in?”

"Relax Cozy, let Gare pull off your neck loop".

Cozy looked up at daisy for a second, then realizing she was right rubbed up against her human and stood as still as she could until he slipped her neck loop off over the top of her head. The yellow loop wasn't halfway off her head before she was running into the crashing surf, Daisy right at her side.

"Now Cozy, remember what I told you – Don't drink this water"

Cozy coughed and hacked, earlier lessons forgotten in her zeal to get in the water.

Snorting the salt water out of her nose Cozy looked at Daisy with a very shocked expression. "This water tastes yucky Daisy!"

Daisy grinned and just looked on as Cozy met the ocean for the first time.

Cozy, recovering quickly from her salt-water surprise turned back to the water to frolic.

Daisy frolicked too, though perhaps with a little less zeal than Cozy.

For hours they ran and swam and played in the surf. Cozy seemed to feel her purpose in life had been realized. She was born to swim in the ocean!

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Daisy finally managed to convince Cozy that they both needed a break, so they made their way over to their humans who were now joined by the other humans they saw sometimes. Cozy liked the little ones Toree and Alee the best. Sometimes they gave her pieces of their dinners even though they weren't supposed to.

Both Cozy and Daisy took long drinks of cool water and lay in the shade by their people, relishing in the attention they received from just about everyone that walked by.

"There's so many people here Daisy."

"Yeah, It's the only thing I don't like about the ocean. I wish we could just come here with our people and make all the other people stay home"

"Oh c'mon Daisy, everybody likes us"

"I know. I just wish there were fewer of them".

Daisy's person seemed to sense Daisy's uneasiness and laid a hand on her head. Daisy calmed a little, content in the knowledge that Loll was nearby.

For hours they played at the beach, content to either lay with their people in the cool shade under the funny looking tree or frolic in the water. After a few ocean romps, they both dozed off.

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Daisy was the first to hear the sound.

"Cozy listen"

"What? I'm sleeping"

"I said listen!" Something in Daisy's tone made Cozy sit bolt upright. She perked her ears forward so she could hear well. Both Cozy and Daisy stopped breathing for a second and the world seemed quite. Then Cozy heard the sound between the breaks of surf – the sound of a child screaming.

"Rescue!" Daisy was already up and running towards the water, sounding the alarm.

Cozy shot up like a flash and ran towards the sound screaming "Rescue!" at the top of her lungs, though later she would have no idea what prompted her to do so.

Cozy being much younger and more agile than Daisy passed her on the way to the water. At the water's edge Cozy stopped and stood absolutely silent for a second. There was no sound. Daisy came running up beside her and they both stood, absolutely silent, not even breathing for fear of missing the next cry.

At the sound of the next cry both Cozy and Daisy looked sharply in the direction of the sound, then without a moments delay leapt into the crashing waves.

Without thinking Cozy swam in the direction of the cries, Daisy swimming strongly beside her. Only once did they pause to reacquire the sound of the struggling children. Hearts racing and feet pumping, the two dogs fought on into the deeper water.

As wave after wave crashed over their heads, Cozy and Daisy swam towards the sounds. In the back of her mind, Daisy thought the water was not this rough when they were in it before.

Out this far the waves were no longer crashing, but rapidly swelling up and down instead. Over a smaller swell Daisy caught sight of the girls thrashing in the water.

"Rescue" She yelled, and Cozy changed her course to follow Daisy.

Daisy assessed the situation in an instant and realized the girls were still breathing, though obviously in far beyond their ability to swim. She swam over to one of the girls and deftly put her head under the girls flailing hands. As those searching hands fell across Daisy's massive neck, they instinctively grabbed on and clung with all their might.

Cozy followed suit, and soon the two dogs each had a water-soaked passenger, locked onto their backs with vice like fists full of black fur.

Their job only half finished, Daisy and Cozy started their arduous swim back to shore. Never wondering which direction they needed to go, they both pointed unerringly towards land and paddled, ever careful to keep the small girls heads above water.

When at last their paws touched sandy bottom, the two dogs almost collapsed in exhaustion, their mission accomplished.

Humans in red costumes came running over to grab the girls from their backs, while their own humans made sure Cozy and Daisy were all right. When both dogs stood up on shaky legs, the gathered crowd of humans all stopped talking and banged their hands together making all sorts of happy sounds.

"What are they doing Daisy?"

"I think they're happy."

"Why? I'm exhausted!"

"They're happy because we saved Toree and Alee."

"I'm tired Daisy, let's go lie in the shade"

"Now you're talking my language kid."

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Daisy and Cozy sat on the big raised platform overlooking the crowd. Cozy couldn't remember ever seeing so many humans in one place. She looked over at Daisy, looking lovely and majestic in the breeze cooled sunlight, and asked her; "Have you ever seen this many humans Daisy?"

"No, but this is a special occasion. Humans like to get together for special occasions"

"How do you know?"

"I just do. Besides, look how extra clean and brushed we are. We don't get this primped over unless there's something special going on!"

"What's the occasion Daisy?"

"I don't know, but I'm glad all those people are down there and not up here with us."

"I think I am too. That's a lot of people".

Cozy looked around some more then felt her human walking and immediately got up to walk with him. Daisy was walking with her human too, up towards the center of the stage.

Cozy and Daisy were now situated at the front of the stage, where everyone could see them. As the human behind the big box grunted to the crowd, Toree and Alee came walking up the stairs on either side of the stage.

"Look Daisy! It's Toree!"

"And Alee too!"

The two girls walked behind Cozy and Daisy and the man behind the big box gave them each something. Cozy strained to see but knew she was supposed to sit still.

Each of their humans knelt down beside them and waited for the young girls to approach. As the human behind the big box spoke again, the girls put big multi-colored neck loops with big coins hanging on the ends over their heads. When the girls moved so the crowd could see them clearly a sound like thunder erupted from the crowd as all the humans stood up and banged their hands together.

"What is it Daisy?"

"I think it's for us!" Daisy seemed in awe; a condition Cozy had never before seen Daisy partake of.

"Really? For what?"

"I think it's for rescuing Toree and Alee from the ocean!"

"But why? That's what your supposed to do isn't it?"

"Yeah. I guess they think it's a big deal"

As the applause lingered on Alee and Toree threw their arms around the giant dogs and hugged them mightily.

As Cozy relished the hug, she involuntarily said to Aleee "I love you Alee. I'd save you anytime"

Alee pulled her head away from Cozy's neck and looked her deep in the eye.

"Thank you Cozy. I love you too"