



*To err is human; to forgive is canine.*  
— Unknown.

Like humans, animals crave mental stimulation. Easy ways to prevent boredom and keep your pet's mind challenged include taking different walking routes, visiting a new park, providing your dog with puzzle balls or toys, playing hide and seek games with bits of kibble, and training your dog to learn new skills or tricks.

*Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring—it was peace.*  
—Milan Kundera

Surprisingly, how often you bathe your pooch depends more on your tolerance for doggie smells and dirt than your dog's idea of personal hygiene. With regular brushing and combing, most dogs are happy with only an occasional shampoo. Even long-haired dogs can go 2 months or so without a bath. However, if your sensitivity is the issue, a bath every 2 or 3 weeks is fine, as long as you use a doggie shampoo that won't irritate your pet's skin or dry his coat. Rinse your dog well to be sure there's no soap left behind.

*Money will buy you a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.*  
— Henry Wheeler Shaw



## CAPE HATTERAS AKA "HATTIE"

BY PAIGE PHILLIPS

In 2004, we adopted Hattie—a small, underfed, timid, but very sweet, Golden Retriever. No one knows her real history except that she had been shuffled from family to family for years. From families on military deployment to those with babies on the way, Hattie has lived with a variety of people. But none were as lucky as we have been to keep her and learn just how special she is.



"Hattie" is short for Cape Hatteras, but her big name did not compensate for her fear and anxiety the night she brought her home. She would not eat a morsel of food, and she tinkled at even the glimpse of someone approaching her. After multiple changes of food—everything from chicken to eggs and rice—we found a food that suited her taste. Hattie quickly regained the 15 pounds that she was lacking and began to enjoy the big back yard and swimming pool that she discovered at her new home. She

quickly made friends with a big black lab named Ty, who adores her and comes to swim and play whenever he can. Hattie meets other pups at the park, the beach, and even when we go for car rides. She is truly living the "Life of Riley" and savors every minute.

Hattie has been a fixture in our home for about three years. She has a new sister, Maggie, a petite Boston Terrier. Hattie and Maggie go to the park every day with their grandma and spend the rest of the day playing and sleeping. Hattie has the biggest heart of any dog I know and she lives to make people happy. She is quick to remind you, though, when you have neglected to keep petting her. Needless to say, we have two very spoiled pups in our home, but our house would not be a home without them.



I want to thank the Golden Retriever Rescue for bringing Cape Hatteras (aka Hattie) into our lives. 🐾