



# Puppy Tails

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What a strange dream... Doodle Dog woke up from his nap very much thinking that someone had picked him up, carted him away and deposited him in an unknown place. With his eyes still closed, the floppy-eared puppy stretched his legs, extended his paws and extended his claws, flexing every inch of his furry little body, including his mouth which opened wide in a yawn. A “good morning” bark escaped involuntarily, coming out more like a squeak that hadn’t grown up yet. But it didn’t matter, as it seemed no one was around to hear it anyway. Doodle Dog coaxed his eyes open to be sure of that fact and indeed didn’t see anyone there, but what he DID see made his eyes open even farther without much more coaxing at all.

What a strange room...the belongings looked familiar – the bookcase filled with the floppy-eared puppy’s favorite fairytales, the basket of chewy toys with their recognizable rawhide scent wafting all the way to his cozy bed, and definitely the touch of the soft blanket snuggled around him was a well-known friend indeed. But as Doodle Dog looked around the space, the room itself was not so usual. Sure, it had walls and a floor and a ceiling that were all pretty standard, the only confusion there being a brighter paint color which could be caused by the sun shining at a different angle through the window. Hey! Someone hung the window wrong! THAT certainly wasn’t in the right place at all!

Completely awake now, Doodle Dog knew that this was most certainly NOT a dream. He hadn’t fallen down a rabbit hole, had he? Any minute now a wide-grinned cat would appear in front of him and start giving him cryptic orders. Better be careful going around corners, he cautioned himself.

He hadn’t stepped through a never-ending closet that opened onto a snowy world, had he? Well, one look outside the wrongly-hung window and he couldn’t rule that theory out entirely. The hills beyond the frosted glass were a vast tundra of white fluffy carpet and, though they seemed a bit familiar, Doodle Dog couldn’t be exactly sure where they led especially since he wasn’t exactly sure where he was at this very moment! The floppy-eared puppy pondered the idea of such a closet – he knew several humans who would LOVE all that space for their clothes and shoes. Shoes! Doodle Dog’s gaze immediately shifted to where the welcome mat inside the office foyer should be. He knew who was in the office at any given time by the sneakers, boots or sandals that rested there. He also knew how yucky the weather was based on the amount of snow that dripped or didn’t drip on the mat. But the door to his room was in the wrong place too and he couldn’t see into the hallway from his current vantage point.

The only thing left to do to find out exactly what was going on was to sniff out the clues himself. Slowly approaching the wrongly-placed door, the curious floppy-eared puppy meandered across the room, one paw at a time, listening for sounds or smells that would tell him he was home. A memory of heavy footsteps echoing through the hallways blended into a memory of boxes being packed and carried into a big truck. By time Doodle Dog nudged open the door and poked his nose around the corner, his mind kept flopping between thoughts of a new safe place to explore and the frightening unknown that could lie ahead of him. At any moment he could peek out and see crashed houses and a welcoming party made up of miniature townspeople and a grown-up fairy princess in a beautiful dress and tiara. The weather HAD been quite nasty as of late, but as much as he tried he didn’t remember anything like a tornado and he was pretty sure all that wind would be hard to ignore.

With one brave bark that no longer sounded anything like a squeak, the floppy-eared puppy bounded out into the hallway. Shoes! And a mat dripping with snow droplets! It wasn’t in the same place it always was, but like his bookcase and the other items in his new room, the pile was a welcome sight. He knew friendly faces were around here somewhere, so he set off to explore this new place. With a little time spent discovering his new surroundings, it soon wouldn’t be that strange at all.