

Ode to Lucky O Henry  
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Henry was found abandoned at John Stretch Park. He was such a lovable dog that those who found him didn't want to send him to animal control. Enter a search for a home.

Herb had just lost a special friend by the name of Lucky. He wasn't looking for a replacement, but when he met Henry, there was a mutual connection.

I called the dog O.Henry after the author of "The Gift of the Magi." It's a story about a couple who lived very simply, but gave sacrificially to bless the other. The woman cut her beautiful hair and sold it to purchase a chain for her husband's prize watch. The man sold his gold watch to purchase special combs for his wife's beautiful hair. Such was the love shared by Herb and O.Henry.

Herb had a whole in his heart that O.Henry filled. The two were almost inseparable.

O.Henry had an immune disorder that required a lot of special care. Both gave sacrificially to bless the other.

Over time, O.Henry's name was changed to Lucky, partly because of his circumstance, partly because of his resemblance to the former Lucky.

Unfortunately, Lucky's condition finally took him down. The loss was painful, but the times of love and companionship left their imprint. Someone once stated that God put dogs on earth to remind us of some important truths, for on one level dogs seem to do better at displaying Christ-like traits than humans. Think about it. Consistently more humble, more loving, more grateful, more joyful, more kindhearted, and so on. Lucky was such a dog. His life gave his master a new step in his gate and a warm smile in his heart.

What is it about dogs that evokes such a positive response? Whatever it is, we know that dogs demonstrate loyalty and obedience, and offer comfort and a sense of well-being.

The point? Perhaps we should try a little harder to be godly and dogly in our daily lives. Following are several dog-truths that Lucky shared that we might do well to adopt:

1. Greet loved ones with wagging tail (or stump!). Nothing is more important than feeling loved, and there's no creature on the planet that does it better than a dog. The wagging tail affirms that this is where we belong: This is our home, where we live, where we're safe and where we're loved.
2. If someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle gently. We all have bad days. That's why we need encouragement and affirmation. When we are depressed, we know that it takes only a quiet word, a gentle touch to bring us around. Words are not always needed, or even helpful. A gentle nuzzle will do wonders. May I never let my dog be a better Christian than myself.



Lucky with his sister Sheba