

The following is an excerpt from "Timber," an adventure written by Marc McDonnell and Mary McDonnell. The ending will be available in the Fall issue of The Silver Spectrum.

Timber

Happy Acres Pet Resort

Chapter One

Timber is a Great Dane puppy. His mother is a Harlequin Great Dane and his father is a black Merle with a white spot on his chest. Timber is a black Great Dane with two different color eyes. His right eye is blue and his left eye is brown. Timber is the first born in a litter of seven puppies.

Timber was adopted by the Bigsworth family. In the Bigsworth family was ten-year old Alan Bigsworth who lives with his two uncles, Gerald Bigsworth and Philbert Bigsworth. They live in a regular, medium-size house, but it has lots of room for Timber right now. Timber is soon to outgrow his new home. Alan's parents died in the hospital.

The first day Timber arrived at his new home, Alan brought him out to the backyard to play fetch. Timber loved his new, big backyard. He loved to play fetch because he was able to run and stretch his long legs. He knew he would have lots of fun with Alan every day, but soon Alan grew tired of playing fetch with Timber. Timber was bored and lonely in his big backyard. He didn't have anything to run after.

Then he saw his neighbors. Looking over his fence was a Saint Bernard named Russ and a black and tan Coonhound and Golden retriever mix named Swampy. The canines had owners who loved to play fetch when they were pups, too. But their owners grew tired of playing also. The canines became friends immediately. They knew they would have fun together without their owners.

Chapter Two

Our story takes place in Kansas City where there is never bad weather. The rolling hills and deep valleys are the perfect settings for the many upcoming adventures for the friends. Their mythical adventures take them to many places. The situations they find themselves in are all very different and sometimes dangerous. Do they really live in Kansas City or somewhere else in the world? Timber's pack of canine heroes has incredible imaginations, which is why their adventures are so exciting. They are all Mythical Canine Adventurers and now they don't call any one place home.

On one fine, sunny day, Timber called to meet with Barnes, Russ, and Swampy around the fence in his backyard. It was time for them to plan some excitement. Timber tells them he has received word through the Secret Canine Communication Network (SCCN) that an animal shelter named, "Happy Acres" was secretly euthanizing the animals that were sent there. The animals were brought there by humans who said that they were either homeless, sick, or had behavior problems. After a while, some of the animals died mysteriously. Timber and his pack knew that these animals were probably misunderstood and mistreated. Timber knew that he and the Mythical Canine Adventurers HAD to put a stop to it at once. Happy Acres indeed!

The Canine Adventurers had that "champion" look about them and they were ready and eager to take on the world and whatever else they found along the way. They asked themselves, "Where will our first Mystical Adventure bring us? How many strange things would happen along the way?" Only time would tell.

Chapter Three

So, Timber, Barnes, Russ, and Swampy set out on their first adventure. As they headed to who-knows-where, Swampy hummed his favorite song, “He’s a Tramp.” It was a catchy tune and all of the members of the pack began to hum along, too. All of sudden, Timber said, “Hey, fellas, we need a theme song! One that will motivate us, one that will get us excited and all pumped up for the adventures we will face. I know, how about the song ‘Fly,’ by some girl named Hilary, it’s perfect for us.” The pack unanimously agreed. Now the Mythical Canine Adventurers had a theme song.

The pack was not sure where to locate Happy Acres, but they knew that they could ask along the way. But they needed to find it fast! They needed to save those helpless animals.

As they strolled through the pet park, they were approached by a large group of canines, who also lived in the neighborhood. This other group had heard that Timber had formed a pack and was out to help those animals who were less fortunate. This group wanted to join the pack, too.

These other canines were Oboe, a brown Newfoundland, Raschale, a Chinese Norwegian Elkhound mix, Volin McFurry, an Irish Setter and Water Spaniel mix. Also included were Rojoe, a Northern Inuit dog and a Polish Hound, Springer Spaniel mix named Roccoh. They all soon became good friends and were to have many adventures in the future.

Timber explained to the new members of the pack that they were on their way to Happy Acres for a rescue mission to save animals that didn’t know they were in danger of losing their lives. Colin McFurry knew exactly where Happy Acres was, but it would

take at least a day to get there. There was no time to waste so they all followed Colin, their new pack navigator. Colin's nickname was GPS, which stood for Great Pet Seeker.

Chapter 4

Colin said, "We have to go to a place that is a dark tunnel with large, shiny, tin trains that carry humans underground wherever they want to go. I heard it's called a 'subway.'" Timber, with Colin at his side, led the pack from one neighborhood to the next until they saw some stairs in the middle of the street, which led down under a sign that read SUBWAY. Timber shouted, "There it is!"

The pack headed down the stairs and into the subway. Colin was right- there were lots of humans. They were everywhere and none of them looked alike. They started yelling at the pack. "Get those dogs out of here!" "No dogs allowed on the subway!" Timber jumped into an open door onto one of the trains and luckily, the entire pack made it onto the same train. None of the humans on the train seemed to be afraid of the pack. They were a fine-looking pack that stood proud and tall.

Timber, being an intelligent pup, looked around for signs that would help him locate Happy Acres Pet Resort. He trusted Colin, but he wasn't sure if Colin really knew where they were going. Timber and the pack had to get off at the next stop, which happened to lead directly into a football stadium. And as luck would have it, most of the humans got off, too. There was a football game going on.

The pack somehow found their way into the players' locker room and then out onto the field of play during the game. The players stopped playing and started to chase

the pack from the field. Timber noticed the cameras filming the chase and was worried that Alan would see them and put a stop to their rescue mission.

Back at the Bigsworth house, Alan and his uncles were watching the game. Alan recognized Timber immediately, but ran to the door and called for his dog anyway, hoping to see his pup come running. Guess what? Timber didn't come. Alan turned back to the television in time to see a close-up of Timber. One blue eye and one brown eye, how many black Great Danes look like that? Not many!

Back at the game, the pack ran away from the cameras. The security guards were not able to catch them, but managed to chase them out of the stadium and into the parking lot. At the end of the parking lot was an overpass bridge that people used to walk over a highway.

Timber and the pack walked over the bridge. It led to a cold, dark alley. Fortunately, the pack only came across a couple of rats searching in a dumpster. Timber introduced himself to the rats. "Hi, my name is Timber and we are on a rescue mission. Do you know where Happy Acres Pet Resort is?"

The more sinister-looking of the rats sat up on his hind legs, rubbed his jaw, and said, "What's it worth to ya?" The other rat mimicked, "Yeah, what's it worth to ya?"

Timber explained, "We're going to rescue some dogs from Happy Acres because they are going to be euthanized. We have to save them."

The sinister rat changed his attitude. "Good for you. I have relatives who were used in experiments and I always wanted to rescue them. Never quite got around to it though."

Just then the other rat, in a teary voice, said, “Happy Acres is just down the street.
Go get ‘em, boys.”

Timber and the pack took off running. They soon came upon Happy Acres Pet
Resort.

Stay tuned to see how this adventure ends...