



Love
Puppies

WE'RE HERE
TO HELP!

Lost Pet Blues

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SCHOLASTIC INC.

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Chapter 1

Relaxing to the Max

“Another mission in the doggie bag,” said Noodles the labradoodle as she and the Love Puppy team hurried behind a large rosebush that grew in the corner of Leticia Smith’s lawn.

“Yes!” said Rosie the golden retriever. “Job



well done, Pups!” Rosie swished her tail and each rosebud on the bush began to bloom. That was Rosie’s specialty. She had magical flower power, which meant she could grow plants whenever and wherever she pleased.

As the leader of the Love Puppy team, Rosie looked warmly over each member of her squad. Clyde, the Shar-Pei, caught her eye as he took a celebratory flying flip and yipped, “We did it!” His magic gave him the ability to fly.

Rosie turned her gaze to Barkley, a miniature dachshund, who morphed into a purple pom-pom. Barkley’s magic allowed him to transform into anything. Next, Rosie turned to Noodles,


who then blew a gentle breeze to ruffle Barkley's shiny frill. Noodles had the ability to control elements of the weather.

This Love Puppy team spent their days helping kids in need and they enjoyed every moment of it. But their favorite part was always right after they successfully completed a mission. It meant another human child was helped out of a tough situation—just as Leticia had been!

So right then and there, each pup's jaws hung open in glee.

“That had to be a record,” said Noodles, her big brown eyes shining. “We helped Leticia





in the flick of a puppy's tail." She wiggled her tail with delight. "I think we earned a nice vacation."

"A *pup*-cation!" added Barkley. "Complete with umbrellas," he said, morphing his body into an umbrella and then into a lounge chair, "relaxation—"


"—and lots of snacks!" chimed in Clyde. He swooped in to rest on Lounge Chair-Barkley. Barkley changed back into his puppy body, and the two wrestled on the ground playfully.

"Let's head back and do it!" said Rosie. She held her paw out in front. Her paw pads began to glow pink. "Come on, Pups!"

All of the pups held out their paws, too, in the center of their puppy huddle. Each of their pads glowed like Rosie's: Noodles's orange, Clyde's blue, and Barkley's purple. "With the power of love—anything is possible. Love Puppies, go!"

As the magical portal known as the Doggie Door opened and the pups jumped through, off in the distance an anxious voice shouted: "Maxie! Maxie, come back!"

But the Love Puppies didn't hear the cry. Instead, with a *whoosh* and a flash of light and fur, the puppies transported from the human world back to the Doghouse—Love Puppy



Headquarters—and landed in their backyard.
Their pup-cation started now!

Rosie padded across the yard toward her vegetable garden beside the house. The first-floor living room window overlooked her bountiful display of plants. Noodles's room had a garden view, too, but on the second floor.

“Hello, my beauties,” Rosie said as her magic caused the plants to dance and wave to her. She was eager to give them some extra-tender love and care.


She used her teeth to grab her straw hat that hung on the wall and tossed it in the air. It fell

right onto her head, her ears poking up through the Rosie-sized earholes. She stopped next to her blossoming tomato plant and inhaled deeply. “How about a nice drink?” she asked as she reached for the hose.

Meanwhile, Clyde flew through the air toward two large trees with a hammock strung between them. Balanced on his upturned paws, he held a tray of goodies he had grabbed from the kitchen. With a flying flip—and not one treat out of place—he landed on the hammock, tummy up. He placed the tray on his belly and called out: “Noodles—glasses me!”

Noodles, who was tanning beside the





bone-shaped pool, giggled and blew a huge gust of wind Clyde's way. This caused the sunglasses that were resting on the poolside table to take flight, tumble through the air, and land right on Clyde's eyes. Now the hammock rocked gently from the wind.

“Paw-fect!” Clyde said, swaying slightly before sipping from a pineapple. “Thank you, Noodles!”

“No problem, Clydie!”

“Cannonball!!!” shouted Barkley. He leapt high into the air and Noodles swept up another gust, helping Barkley propel toward the pool. Next, Barkley transformed from his


puppy body into a giant purple ball and hit the water with a *SPLASH*. Noodles kicked up a wind, sending the splashing water flying in all directions—except for onto her own curly, dry fur.

“HEY!” called Clyde, now all soggy.

“Sorry about that.” Noodles chuckled.

Clyde jumped down from the hammock, his snack tray already empty, and jetted toward the pool, taking a flying dive into the cool water. Each pup played and laughed, enjoying the warm, beautiful day.

As for Rosie, she continued watering her plants and snipping at stray growths in



her garden. Suddenly, her ears perked up at a thumping sound. *TAP, TAP, TAP!*

“Hello?” Rosie looked around, trying to find the source of the sound.

Then, she noticed flashing coming from the living room window, followed by more tapping. She realized what it was—the Crystal Bone! It hovered near the living room window, buzzing and blinking.

The Crystal Bone was just as important to the team as each one of the puppies. Whenever a child was in need, it was the Crystal Bone that sounded the alarm. It would blink and buzz each time a new human was selected for

help and a new mission began. But it was only Rosie who could receive the messages sent by the giant bone. She would place her paws on its smooth crystal surface and use her magic to get the information.

The way it blinked and buzzed at that moment told Rosie the pups were needed right away!

“Well,” Rosie said to herself, “guess we’ll have to relax later!”

So much for having it made in the shade!

