

# Teaching 'old' dogs new tricks - the hard way

Their names are Porter, Monty and Ginny of Auckland, New Zealand. Underage, not one has a driver's license. Besides, since they can't read, they would not be able to pass the written test. They're too short to see over the steering wheel and they are colorblind.

And by the way, Porter, Monty and Ginny are shelter dogs, learning to drive a specially adapted Mini Cooper, which is part of a project to encourage pet adoptions from animal shelters in Auckland.

When I first learned how trainer Mark Vette was teaching these mixed-breeds to drive, I tried to imagine what kind of students my three rescue Dachshunds would be.

First, there's Zoe [pronounced Zo-ee]. Even though she loves to "help" steer my car by standing with her hind legs on my lap and her front paws on the steering wheel, there's just one slight problem.

Her blasé attitude combined with the low humming of the car's engine serve as an instant lullaby. By the time I've backed out of the driveway, she and her kennel mate, Lily, are packing "Z-Z-Z's. I'm sure the cops would cite both for sleeping while driving.

And then there's Poe-Poe. Neurotic as all get-out only, the disposition of my medium-sized Dachshund is fidgety at best. A nervous wreck, he gets all worked up over the slightest things. Put him behind the wheel, and he'll bite his nails and whine at the same time. It's downright pitiful.

Poe-Poe gets edgy when the phone rings, let alone in traffic when he white knuckles the entire ride.

Add to that all of the four-legged creatures roaming around outside, like c-a-t-s and c-o-w-s. I actually have to cover his eyes and spell so he does not hurl himself out the window.

I'm afraid if Poe-Poe

ever passed a driver's training, which (close your ears, Poe-Poe) is very unlikely; he definitely would suffer from distracted driving, causing lots of accidents and sending my car insurance sky high.

Speaking of distracted driving, my three fur-children would be pulled over one too many times for weaving in and out of traffic while grooming themselves and each other. Add to that driving with their heads hanging out the window and I just couldn't handle it.

Even with my doubts, I was all for doggy driver's training, until I found out the whole idea was originated by an Auckland advertising agency, commissioned by Mini Cooper, which turned the story from cute to gimmick in an instant.

But then I began to envision all of the possibilities. Since airplanes and trains are

mostly computerized, it would not be out of the realm of possibilities for Zoe, Lily and Poe-Poe to learn how to fly planes and conduct trains. Although, since all three suffer from acute jealousy, riding shotgun or co-piloting would not sit well. They would have to travel solo, which would be totally traumatic, because they run in packs, like one fur ball on 12 legs.

After this story from New Zealand, I'm afraid to think of what marketers will come up with of next: chimps commandeering hot air balloons, dolphins steering submarines, cheetahs driving NASCAR or squirrels driving you nuts, and that is a whole other story.

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A resident of Southeast South Dakota, Paula Bosco Damon is a

MY STORY YOUR STORY



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national award-winning columnist. Her writing has won first-place in competitions of the National Federation of Press Women, South Dakota Press Women and Iowa Press Women. In the 2009, 2010 and 2011 South Dakota Press Women Communications Contests, her columns have earned eight first-place awards. To contact Paula, email [boscodamon.paula@gmail.com](mailto:boscodamon.paula@gmail.com), follow her blog at [my-story-your-story.blogspot.com](http://my-story-your-story.blogspot.com) and find her on FaceBook.

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## PLYMOUTH FEEDS CO. RELOCATION AUCTION

Location: Hwy 75, Merrill, IA  
Friday, Dec. 28th @ 10:00 AM  
Saturday, Dec. 29th @ 10:00 AM

Note: This is a DOT forced sale due to the widening of Hwy 75 through Merrill. Plymouth Feeds is not going out of business and will be relocating in Merrill as soon as they can get a new building constructed. Until then they will have a small store open in town to serve you. They must reduce their inventory. Everything will have **FACTORY WARRANTY & EVERYTHING WILL SELL**. We will be running 2 rings so bring a friend. Smaller items will be sold in heated buildings. Some items subject to prior sale.

**TRACTORS, AUGERS & EQUIP:** Farmtrac 450 4WD w/loader; Farmtrac 45 w/turf tires & loader; **New Augers:** 12"x 92" Peck transport w/self propelled hyd drive hopper; (2)Peck 10"x 31"PTO; (2)Hutchinson 8"x 33" PTO; Hutchinson 8"x 65" swing away gear drive hopper; Sudenga 10"x 31"PTO w/17" hopper; Peck 8"x 36"/10Hp elec. Motor & 17" hopper; **Plus several used augers all sizes.** (2)King Cutter bale spears; 5', 6' & 7'King Cutter finish mowers; (2)Farmtrac FTS 500 3pt seeders; (4)King Cutter 3pt crane hoists; (3)King Cutter 3pt blades

**LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT, MEDICATIONS & MISC:** Big variety and many duplicates of the following items: Livestock feeders; Energy free & heated waters; Pig waters; Tube feeders; SS fence line feeders; Rabbit cages; Chicken coops; Chicken feeders; Heat lamps & brooders; Stock tank heaters & Deicers; Farrowing crates; Livestock scales; Bug zappers; 40+Behlen 12'cattle gates; 70 & 100gal. Rubbermaid stock tanks; Behlen galv. Stock tanks; 6'poly feed bunk; Sioux ground & wind vane mineral feeders; Horseman's Choice 30"feeders, stall feeders & corner fence feeders; Behlen 10'x 5'Kennel panels; Sioux dbl sided portable calf creep feeder; (4)Sioux calving pens; Sioux RB calf feeder; Franklin & Sioux RB hay feeders; Sioux horse & bull RB feeders; RB hay saver inserts; Big selection of Sioux livestock gates; 100+ Redbrand cattle & 50+ hog panels; Barb wire; Smooth wire; Woven wire; Mineral & Salt blocks; Livestock Prods; Whips; Sorting Paddles; etc. **Entire line of animal health products including:** Disinfectants; Wormers; Syringes; Balling guns; Calf pullers; Mange & Lice control; Livestock markers; Ear tags & applicators; Castrating & surgical knives & banders; Electrolytes; Antibiotics; Cattle sprays; Medications; Supplements; Dust powder & Bags; Milk Replacer; Calf buckets & Nipple feeders; Hand soaps; Iodine; Foot Rot; Disposable boots & Sleeve gloves; Shampoo; Show halters; Leather cleaners; Flex collars; much more.

**POWERTOOLS:** Over 150 NEW power tools including: Bench grinders; Lathes; Drills & Bits; Miter saws; Jigsaws; Angle grinders; Power washers; Generator sets; Sanders; Routers; Chop saws; Chainsaws; Heat guns; Skill saws; Reciprocating saws; Stick & Wire welders; Portable & Stationary air compressors; Puma air tools (greasers, nailers, etc.) & more.

**MISC:** Variety of single, dbl & triple belt pulleys; Several 1Hp & 1/2Hp deep well pumps; Well caps; Variety of pressure tanks & switches; Jet Pump tank systems; Sump Pumps; Transfer Pumps; Reverse Osmosis & Water filter systems; Lawn sprinkler heads; (2)14.5Hp Briggs gas engines; Variety of electric heaters; Knipco Pro 155 space heater; Ryobi elec. blower/vacs; Bird feeders; Live traps; Large to small Hyd. Jacks & Floor Jacks; Handyman Jacks; 4'x 50'rolls Plastic snow fence; Portable air tanks; Water tank heaters; Tool belts; Bolt Cutters; Big Pipe wrenches; Assorted tools & wrenches; Cement tools; Shop Rags; Duct & Masking tape; Staple guns & staples; Winches; Tractor jacks; Tractor canopy's; Wood dowels; Finish nails; Hinges; Shelf brackets; Door knobs; Crosman & Daisy BB guns; Softener salt; Sidewalk salt; Mouse Poison & Traps; Assorted Fans; Dog Collars & Feeders; Dog & Cat food; Saddle pads & halters; Buckets; Feed pans & Scoops; Full line of Peterson trailer (lights, plugs, wiring, reflectors, warning lights, etc); **LAWN & GARDEN:** Several pull behind lawn trailers; Fertilizer spreaders; 12v sprayers; Wheel barrows; 4' & 8'Windmills; Garden seeds; Fertilizer; Sprays & Chemicals; Roundup; Garden Hose; Hose fittings; Nozzles & Wands; Sprinklers; Garden tools; Variety of (shovels, rakes, hoes, brooms, axes, scrapers, etc.); Hand sprayers; Mower blades; Trimmer string; Rain gauges; Window insulation; **FARM & AUTOMOTIVE:** Cases & 2 1/2 gal. jugs of all types of oil;12v fuel pumps; Large variety of farm & automotive sprays & fluids; Fuel nozzles & hose; Barrel pumps; Funnels; Measuring cans; Gas cans; Tire care products; Grease guns & grease; Jumper cables; Battery chargers; Jump starters; Battery cables & ends; Engine heaters; Creepers & more. **BUG SPRAYS:** Country Vet Insect Control systems; Air Freshener Kits; Fly strips & Baits; Bugmax sprays; Bug Foggers; etc.

**FARM & HOUSE PAINT & SUPPLIES:** VanSickle paint & spray cans; Tractor & Industrial enamel; Barn & Building; Interior Latex; Wood stains; Thinners; Caulk; Sandpaper; Brushes; Rollers; Pans, etc.

**Terms:** Cash, Credit or check. Nothing removed unless settled for. **Photo I.D. required for bidding number.** Not responsible for accidents.



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