

162. PASSING ON KIND WORDS - TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6, 2026

Good morning, Grace Harbor – it's Dan. Happy Tuesday!

As Luke, our golden retriever, is approaching his second birthday, yesterday was the day of his yearly checkup. After his overly joy-filled reaction to the goat on Sunday at the Blessing of the Animals, I was really hoping for an empty lobby when we arrived.

The good news is that there were no other animals – exotic or otherwise – to get him worked up. The **other** news is that, even in an empty lobby, Luke invents new ways to be a goofball.

The first thing we always have to do is check his weight, which requires him to stand still for two seconds on a scale. Apparently, standing still is a skill he still needs to work on! We could only get three paws on the scale at any one time. Thankfully, the tech has been there a while and seen her share of animals, so she was able to make a good enough guess.

Then, when it was time to head back to the exam room, you'd think Luke was walking on an ice skating rink. His paws kept slipping on the tile, and after attempting a couple steps, he sat down and refused to move. It was then up to me to lift my **approximately** 63-pound dog and carry him. I'm glad I didn't run into any walls because he decided to lick my face the whole way.

I was able to get Luke settled down as we waited for Dr. Lee, the vet, but the moment he entered the room, Luke jumped right up and almost tackled him.

"I'm so sorry," I said. "We're working on greeting people, but it looks like we have a ways to go."

"It's ok. It's probably the goat-scented hand sanitizer we have in the back," Dr. Lee joked.

"You heard about that, huh?" I remarked, realizing one of the earlier pet owners must have told him all about Sunday's event.

"Dan, that's practically all I've heard about for the last two weeks!" Dr. Lee said. "People **love** that event. I hope you know that."

"Really?" I asked. "I mean, **I** love it, but I basically get to meet every adorable pet in town. It's like getting to be you for an afternoon, but I don't have to take any temperatures or give any shots!"

"Ah, that'd be nice," Dr. Lee said. "But no, seriously, it's great. I had one gentleman ask me **three** times during an appointment if I thought you'd be ok with him bringing his parakeet."

"Oh, that's Patches! She's sweet," I said.

"As long as you're not trying to take her temperature!" Dr. Lee chuckled, turning back to Luke to finish the check

up.

As I reflected on it later in the day, it hit me – I'll bet the only times Patches ever gets to leave the house are to go to the vet and to go to the Blessing of the Animals. With some pets, unless someone comes over, you never get to show them off. The fact that he asked Dr. Lee three times to be sure Patches could come? I just keep thinking about that.

It also really means something to folks when you treat their pet as more than just another animal. I know in our family, we sometimes refer to Luke as "your brother" when talking about him with our human kids.

I'm really glad Dr. Lee shared how much the event means to his families. He didn't need to do that, but he did, and it encouraged me. This thing that I mostly think of as just being fun really matters more than I realized. And you know, without him saying something, I wouldn't have known, and I'm not sure I would have slowed down long enough to think about it.

It got me to wondering: are there any kind words I have for someone else that I could share? There are times when I feel grateful for someone or for something someone has done for me, but I don't always remember to share it. Since today is Grattituesday, why don't you share the name of someone you've been meaning to thank or encourage and one way you could share that with them by the end of the week. If you need more time, you can pause the podcast, and I'll be right here when you get back.

[PAUSE]

For me, I'm going to stop by Auden and Brookie's Ice Cream & Cookies later this week and thank them for being out at the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday. They brought their retro ice cream truck down for families to enjoy, and while someone was kind enough to bring me an ice cream, I was so busy with the event that I never got over to the truck to say thank you.

Ok, let's close in prayer. If you want to, you can close your eyes and fold your hands.

Dear God, there are so many things we could say thank you for. Sometimes we remember to do it, but sometimes we get busy or we forget, and those kind words remain unspoken. So, in this moment, we say thank you – to you and for all the people in our lives who have blessed us. Help us keep our eyes and hearts open for moments to pass on kind and encouraging words whenever we can. Amen.

Ok, Grace Harbor, have a great Tuesday, and I'll catch you tomorrow.

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