

DOG SQUAD!

HERDING HENRY

Written by

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Dog Squad - Herding Henry - Polish - written by Jeff Rosen

1.

EXT. - BARKLEY BEND PARK - MORNING

A young family, IRMA, HOWARD, and BABY in a pram enter the park with HENRY, their collie pup. They peer around nervously.

IRMA

Henry, Mommy's going to take your lead off, but you need to come when we call.

HOWARD

Just like we worked on in puppy class, OK, buddy?

IRMA

And if you're a good boy, you'll get a treat. See?

Irma shows Henry a bag of treats. Henry <SNIFFS> the treats and wags as Irma takes a deep <BREATH> and unclips the lead. They are treating this with the seriousness of a space launch.

As soon as Henry is free, he begins <HERDING> them, whipping around like a furry NASCAR.

HOWARD

Woah! He sure has a lot of energy!

Henry spots some GEESE and he's off! Irma and Howard race after him pram and all.

IRMA AND HOWARD

Henry! Come! Here! Stop!

Henry totally ignores them and begins to herd the <SQUAWKING HONKING> geese.

The park caretaker, CURTIS, wanders in, scratching his head at the sight.

EST. EXT. HOUNDLY HOME FOR HOUNDS - CONTINUOUS

EXT. HOUNDLY HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

KETUS is digging up a BONE in the backyard. VLAD trots over, alarmed.

VLAD
Ketus, what are you doing?

KETUS
Found a bone.

VLAD
That's *my* bone. I buried it.

KETUS
Ooops. Sorry, Vlad. Couldn't help myself. Did you... by any chance... bury those, too?

Ketus turns REVEALING the backyard is littered with dug-up BONES. Vlad does a <DOUBLE-TAKE!>

VLAD
I am so upset, I could... *howl!*

The other DOGS hurry over.

FLO
Don't howl, Vlad!

VLAD
I cannot help *myself*. I am a wild, wild *wolf!*

BASIL
You are only *part* wild, wild wolf.

VLAD
The wolfy *howly* part!

ZAZA
Keep it together.

Vlad attempts to stifle his howl, makes ridiculous contorted <FACES> while the others look on, mildly alarmed. He finally bites his foot.

VLAD
(through a mouthful of foot)
I am biting my foot instead.

JILLY and JETT enter, staring at the dug-up yard.

JETT

Did Ketus dig up the yard again?
Mom and dad are *not* going to like
this.

Ketus hangs his head. Jilly gives him a little scratch.

JILLY

It's not his fault, Jett. Ketus is
a bloodhound and bloodhounds love
to find stuff.

Basil spots an old OBEDIENCE SCHOOL RIBBON that Ketus dug up.

BASIL

My old obedience school ribbon. I
have been looking for this *forever!*

Basil snaps the ragged ribbon on to his collar.

ZAZA

I buried that, Basil. You wore it,
like, *every single day*. It was
embarrassing.

(*NOTE: Zaza has a funky green pom-pom on her tail.)

BASIL

(insulted)

I'll have you know the Royal Canine
Academy said I was the best roll-
over-and-play-dead dog they ever
saw. And may I point out, Zaza, you
have a *green* pom-pom. Talk about
embarrassing.

ZAZA

(nonplussed)

I look amazing.

A distant DOG HOWL is heard, O/S.

<BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF NEIGHBORHOOD>

AROUND THE COMMUNITY - The <HOWL> is picked up by a network
of dogs and passed around like a relay: A Basset Hound from a
house window... a Labrador Retriever in a back yard... a
Beagle with it's head out a moving car window... a Chihuahua
from the dog-bag carrier of a lady... until the sound reaches
the Houndly home.

(PAN DOWN TO)

EXT. HOUNDLY HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

JILLY + JET
The hound-sound!

The dogs interpret it for Jilly and Jett.

30

FLO
A dog named Henry needs our help!

30

ZAZA
His family don't know what to do
with him!

JETT
To the Squad-Pod!

Everyone bolts towards a large ramshackle shed, practically
bowling over DESMOND and MOLLY (mom and dad) who have come
out to see what all the commotion is about. They stare,
dazed, at the departing squad - and the yard!

JETT (CONT'D)
(over his shoulder)
Don't worry, we'll fill the holes
when we get back!

MOLLY
(weak wave)
Be safe!

DESMOND
They're not going to fill the
holes, are they?

MOLLY
Not a chance.

INT. DOG SQUAD-POD - CONTINUOUS

The "Squad-Pod" is just the shed with some dog posters and an
old computer on a bench - but to the squad, it's the bat
cave!

A series of <ACTION SHOTS> as Jilly and Jett suit-up,
superhero-style, for the adventure. They do this in unison as
the dogs sit at attention.

JETT
Helmets...

JILLY
On!

JETT
Treats...

JILLY
Loaded!

Jilly loads a dog treat bag in her utility-like belt.

ON: Each dog immediately begins to <DROOL>.

DOGS
Treeeeeeeeats...!

JILLY
Poop-bags...

JETT
Engaged!

Jett stuffs a few poop bags in his belt. Jilly and Jett hop onto their souped-up bikes. Kickstands up! They <BLAST> out from the shed on their bikes followed by the pack... then realize Ketus is still in the shed. They turn back to him.

JETT (CONT'D)
Ketus? Aren't you coming?

KETUS
Shucks, I'm just an ol' bloodhound from Boonseville. No one needs me sniffin' around for stuff.

JILLY
There's a place in the pack for everyone.

THE SQUAD
<AGREEMENT!>

ON: Ketus looks unconvinced, but manages a little wag.

JETT
Let's ruff 'n roll!

They <BLAST!> off again with renewed vigor.

EXT. IRMA AND HOWARD'S BACKYARD - LATER

The squad are interviewing Irma and Howard as Henry sits, (leashed) looking anxious. The baby is in her pram.

JILLY

Tell us about Henry.

HOWARD

We got him from the shelter,
instead of a pet store.

IRMA

There are so many dogs that need a
home.

JILLY

(nods approvingly)
Good move. "Adopt don't shop."

IRMA

We love Henry, but he has so much
energy. As soon as he's off his
lead he herds anything that moves
and won't come when we call.

**

HOWARD

We have to wait until he gets tired
and comes back on his own.

IRMA

(sotto, to the squad)
We're afraid we might not be the
right family for Henry.

ON: Henry's ears perk up - he's heard this! His tail sags.

ON: The dogs looking equally concerned.

Irma and Howard hold hands and gaze at Henry, concerned!

Basil steps up, clearing his throat.

BASIL

Allow *me* to handle this. Obedience
is my middle name. This is my
ribbon.

Basil shows the family his disintegrated ribbon.

Zaza covers her eyes with her paws, <GROANING>.

BASIL (CONT'D)
Release the hound.

Irma and Howard exchange nervous looks. Howard unclips Henry. Basil makes a few sharp paw command <GESTURES> to him.

BASIL (CONT'D)
Sit. Stay. Good dog.

Henry instantly <HERDS> Basil around the yard, yapping and nipping at his heels.

BASIL (CONT'D)
(out of breath)
Great Danes! He does not obey basic commands!

VLAD
(dramatically)
He will obey... the call of the wild! I will howl at him...

Vlad clears his throat to howl. Henry nips at him and <HERDS> him along with Basil. The three are now roaring around the yard, nearly bowling over the others.

VLAD (CONT'D)
(panting)
I will howl at him later!

Henry begins <HERDING> the others. He zips around, between, over and under everyone in a madcap <KEYSTONE COPS FAST-MOTION MELEE>. Everyone - including the baby pram - ends up in a herded heap.

JILLY
This might take a little time.

ZAZA
(to Ketus)
You're stepping on my pom-pom.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. DOG SQUAD-POD - LATER

ON: Henry, sitting and staring nervously.

REVEAL: The squad, staring back at him.

HENRY
Am I... a bad dog?

THE SQUAD
NO BAD DOGS!

HENRY
But will I have to go back to the
dog shelter?

THE SQUAD
No way!/Uh-uh!/Nope!

HENRY
I didn't like it there. No place to
herd. I like to herd.

JILLY
There's a place in the pack for
everyone, Henry. And we'll find
yours. I *promise*.

FLO
Have you tried... *not* herding?

HENRY
I can't help it.

KETUS
I know *exactly* how you feel.

HENRY
Do *you* herd?

KETUS
I *find* stuff.
(sadly)
Whether I *want* to or not.

Henry and Ketus sniff each other and wag. A bond!

Jilly flicks on the computer to show dogs doing various
things: <SLED DOGS AND GUIDE DOGS AT WORK>.

JILLY (V.O.)
Different dogs are good at doing
different things, like pulling
sleds, or helping people get
around. See, Henry?

Henry <SNIFFS> the screen.

JETT

Yeah! It's like they're born with
super powers!

ZAZA

Ketus has an *awesome* nose that can
sniff out anything.

FLO

He's a super-sniffer!

KETUS

"Super-sniffer." Never thought
about it like *that* before...

JETT

The Doggie-Identifier will tell us
what kind of dog *you* are, Henry.

Jett aims his phone at Henry and scans him. Henry looks
apprehensive.

JETT (CONT'D)

It doesn't hurt. Just stay still...

ON: PHONE: A blur of dog breeds wiz past until a BORDER
COLLIE appears and a <MATCH ICON>.

JETT (CONT'D)

Look! You're a border collie.

HENRY

(thoughtfully)
A border collie.

FLO

We've never had one of *those* around
here before.

The dogs stare at Henry, impressed.

JILLY

Collies need a *lot* of exercise and
they love to herd sheep.

ZAZA

Cool!

ON: Jett regards the MONITOR which has a <NO SHEEP PICTOGRAM>

JETT

But... there are no sheep in
Barkley Bend. What else can Henry
herd?

REVEAL: Henry has <HERDED!> the squad again - around and
around the shed!

THE SQUAD

Anything!!

JILLY

We need to find Henry some humans
who can give him lots of exercise!

JETT

Good thinking, sis! Who's looking
to adopt a dog?

Jilly taps the keyboard as she is herded past and an <IMAGE>
of a FAMILY comes up on the monitor. Jett and Jilly read
snatches of the monitor as they are herded past each time.

JILLY

The Hartmans.... Big family. Enjoy
playing soccer...!

JETT

Looking for active dog... Perfect!

BASIL

Can we get on with it? I'm getting
dizzy!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER

The HARTMANS are herded into a net by Henry, followed by
their soccer ball for good measure. Henry looks sheepishly at
the dog squad.

MONTAGE

The action jumps back and forth from the squad searching for
potential homes for Henry on the monitor and the predictable
results...

Henry herds a family in a grocery store, and everyone else,
carts and all!

Henry has herded a family of joggers, then more random
joggers!

Another family are seeing their daughter off on the school bus with Henry by their side. <FLASH CUT TO> the entire bus has been emptied out and Henry is herding the kids around the curb!

MONTAGE ENDS

EXT. BARKLEY BEND PARK - LATER

The squad head home through the park, looking defeated, with Henry sulking along behind them.

JETT

We've tried every family who are looking to adopt a dog.

JILLY

Henry only wants to herd and no one seems to want *that*.

BASIL

(panting)

At least he's too tired to herd anything right now. I can't chase him around any more.

VLAD

(walking gingerly)

My paws are sore.

KETUS

(drooling)

I could really use a treat.

FLO

We'll figure out *something*. Right?
He's *not* going back to the shelter.

The squad look uncertainly back at Henry. His ears are pricked up and he regards them just as uncertainly.

SFX: HAMMERING

Everyone turns to REVEAL park Caretaker Curtis hammering in a "PARK CLOSED" (*pictogram) SIGN.

JILLY

Caretaker Curtis, why are you closing the park?

CARETAKER CURTIS

Geese!

A few GEESE flap and waddle around, HONKING and FLAPPING,
loudly, scaring KIDS away.

CARETAKER CURTIS (CONT'D)

I hate to close it but these geese
are out of control. They're scaring
the kids.

They all <DUCK> as a few geese come in for a landing on the
pond. A goose tries to nip Vlad's bum!

VLAD

(barking at goose)
<Bark! Bark!> Begone, large
airborne biting chicken! Shoo!

CARETAKER CURTIS

(thinking, looking around)
Say... where's that little fella
who herded them up the other day?

JILLY

You mean... Henry?

CARETAKER CURTIS

(eying the honking geese)
Sure could use *him* around here.

ON: Jilly is lost in thought.

Jett looks around. Henry is gone!

JETT

Henry? Where did he go?

The squad scan around the park.

BASIL

Ran off to herd something, would be
my guess.

JILLY

We have to find him.

JETT

(getting an idea)
There's a dog for this job!

Jett turns to Ketus. Ketus looks behind him... then back at Jett.

KETUS
Who... *me*?

JETT
A bloodhound finds things.

FLO
With their super-sniffer!

KETUS
Well, I reckon so...

Ketus starts sniffing around... and finds a trail!

BASIL
By Jove I think he's got it!

Ketus tears off, <BAYING> as Jilly and Jett clamber on to their bikes, followed by the dogs who tear off after him.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

The squad follow Ketus through the woods, on the trail of Henry. Ketus comes to a fallen tree and begins to dig at its base.

JILLY
What did you find, Ketus?

Ketus digs up a nut.

KETUS
Nut.

One of the dogs gobbles it. Ketus digs up another nut.

KETUS (CONT'D)
Another nut.

Another dog gobbles it. Ketus tears off and finds more nuts.

KETUS (CONT'D)
Lot of nuts.

The dogs have a nut-fest.

JETT

Ketus... we're not looking for
nuts, buddy. We're looking for
Henry.

KETUS

I know, but my sniffer keeps
finding *nuts*.

VLAD

(mouthful of nuts)
I enjoy nuts.

FLO

(chomping)
Kind of a... woody flavor.

BASIL

(a gourmet)
They're not liver treats, but they
do have a satisfying kick to them.

Jilly and Jett regard each other.

JILLY + JETT

Dogs.

JILLY

Can we *focus*, please?

A <BAY!> from Ketus turns everyone's heads. Ketus is wagging
at a hollow log. Henry is peering out at them from inside.

JETT

Henry!

JILLY

You found him, Ketus!

The squad beam at Ketus.

DOG SQUAD

Great work!/Way to go!/Yay!

Jilly bends over to Henry.

JILLY

What are you doing in there, Henry?

HENRY

This is my new home.

JILLY

Why?

HENRY

No one wants me. I herd.

JILLY

I promised you there was a place in
the pack for everyone, and I think
we may have found yours.

**

The others look surprised. Henry slowly crawls out from the log, his tail giving a hopeful wag.

INT. BARKLEY BEND PARK - NEXT DAY

The park is OPEN again and full of playing children.

ON: The squad are gathered with a beaming Caretaker Curtis.

BASIL

The park is saved, thanks to Henry!

REVEAL: Henry is happily <HERDING GEESE> as passersby take pictures of the charming scene.

CARETAKER CURTIS (V.O.)

He loves herding geese.

REVEAL: Irma and Howard, looking on happily, arm-in-arm, with their baby in a pram.

CARETAKER CURTIS

And those nice people say I can
keep him - so I have a new friend!

IRMA

So long as we can come visit him
any time!

Henry races over, tail wagging, to Caretaker Curtis who gives him a happy cuddle.

FLO

CUDDLE-HUDDLE!!

The dog squad cuddle with Curtis, Jilly and Jett and Irma and Howard.

VLAD

Would this be a good time to howl?

ZAHA
Go for it, Vlad.

Vlad finally <HOWLS!> The other dogs join in.

JILLY + JETT
Dogs.

Jilly and Jett grin at each other... and <HOWL!> too.

DOGS
Humans.

END OF EPISODE