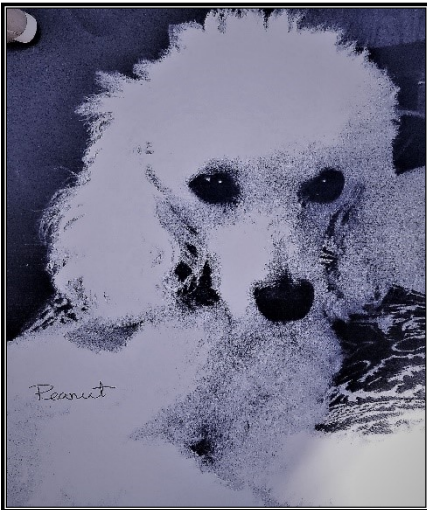


## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

August 6-12, 2021

### LET THE BOONDOGGLE-BUSTING BEGIN! – Part 12

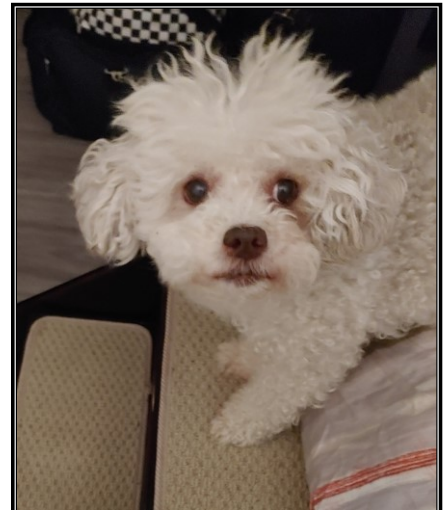


*if the governor  
is recalled in september  
what's the fate of pets*

*will folks give up dogs  
they no longer can afford  
if they're forced to move*

*will pets like this pair  
that was cruelly torn apart  
suffer or be killed*

*homelessness hurts pets  
bella still cries out in dreams  
grieving for peanut*



### WHO WILL SCOOP THE POOP IF THE GOVERNOR IS RECALLED?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**VOTING** will be over and done on September 14. If a majority of voters says NO to recalling Governor Gavin Newsom, he'll keep the job he's had for the past two-and-a-half years. If they vote YES, he'll be replaced by whichever candidate gets - not a majority but simply the *most* - votes.

That winner would, in effect, grab the seat and finish out the balance of Newsom's term, leaving us to ask: *How will he/she scoop up the poop left behind?*

We're not talking doggie doo-doo, folks. There's human excrement piling up on our streets.

Awesome? Yes. It's also boondoggle-busting terrifying! Here's why:

Since the ticket will be split 46 ways, one of those candidates could find himself/herself elected to step in and run the world's fifth greatest economy that's reeling under quadruple threats our current governor is juggling with more apparent successes than failures at present: *the on-and-off pandemic; the up-and-down economy, the hot-and-dry wildfires/climate change; and the housing/homeless crisis for animals of all species, not only humans.*

### Two Little Doggies That Cry In The Night

An example is the tragic separation of two little Monterey Peninsula service dogs named Peanut and Bella. Their case was covered in last year's "In Our Own Backyard" series of this column. Basically, Peanut was seized by the SPCA on Valentine's Day 2020 when his foot was fractured, and his owner couldn't come up in about an hour with money to pay for his veterinary care.

Peanut's leg was subsequently amputated, and the dog placed with a family. His broken-hearted owner sued for his return, lost the case and filed an appeal. Since the Covid-19 pandemic was raging, a defense attorney

was assigned but assembling a jury for a court trial was prevented by the Covid-19 shutdown. Neither Bella, Peanut's canine companion, nor his doggy mom ever saw him again.

For details, see the Archive columns headlined "Part 40--If dogs could testify in court, would Peanut get to go back home?"(July 31, 2020) and "Part 41--Homeless Monterey woman appeals SPCA's seizure of her Service Dog" (Aug. 1, 2020) at [www.homeless-in-paradise.yolasite.com](http://www.homeless-in-paradise.yolasite.com).

### **The Doggies' Mom Speaks**

The dogs' owner, with whom they lived in her van at the time Peanut was seized, is 76-year-old Jo G., whose positive side of the story is that she's close to finally being permanently housed after a 5-year wait. She says, "Thanks to Gov. Newsom's Project Roomkey which enabled Bella and me to be safely sheltered in a local motel from July 2020 through the end of this month, I was able to have long-delayed eye, foot and dental procedures I couldn't have had without a proper place to recover." Once she's situated in her own apartment, Jo plans to enroll in law school and continue her education. If need be, she'll serve as her own attorney in order to pursue getting Peanut back.

Although she hasn't seen or heard anything about Peanut in a year-and-a-half, she knows Bella still misses him. "She's my baby. She cries in her sleep," Jo says. "It breaks my heart to not be able to do anything to bring Peanut home. I'd like to at least have a photo of him."

She says the worst thing that came out of the past year of sheltering-in-place during the Covid-19 epidemic was not even knowing if Peanut was really still alive. She's heard that many pet parents who face impending homelessness, when the temporary homeless housing and rental moratorium expire, fear they'll have to relinquish their animals.

"I've heard people are already abandoning their pets on the streets rather than surrendering them to shelters where they could be euthanized because there are too many animals coming in," she says. Consequently, Jo G. is not only going to work at a polling site on Recall Election Day, but she's also avidly promoting the importance of voting for the right gubernatorial candidate by considering the consequences if the wrong person wins.

### **California's Recall Elections History**

If more voters say YES to recalling the current governor than say NO, that's it! He's out! How would you feel if 1,000, or even just 100 or fewer, votes put a new person in charge of California's—of your—life? It's possible.

California has a population of roughly 40 million people, 22,047,448 of whom were registered voters as of Oct. 19, 2020. Of this total, the percentages of voters in three recent recall elections were: 2003--Recall (succeeded) of Governor Gray Davis, 61.20 percent; 2008—Recall (failed) of Senator Josh Newman, No. Calif., 36.47 percent; 2008--Recall (succeeded) of Senator Jeff Denham, So. Calif., 24.24 percent.

Ballots will be mailed on August 16. Please vote by mail or in person. If you don't, here's a preview of what might lie ahead right in your own backyard.

### **The Scoop On The Poop**

Regina Mason, co-founder of The Village Project in Seaside, commended boondoggle-busting Seaside City Council for its work with homelessness at the council meeting of July 15, 2021: "I think efforts could go a little further in terms of installing portable bathrooms and wash basins at strategic locations throughout the city," she said. "Several locations, including ours, have been impacted by defecation because there's nowhere to go. . ."

That's human, not animal, feces. See Regina's eloquent presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYnK-fiN2cw&t=858s>, then vote for the gubernatorial candidate you know is best-qualified to keep your streets clean.

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### CREDITS:

Photos of service dogs Peanut (left) and Bella (right) courtesy of Jo G.  
Caption: haiku quartet by Wanda Sue Parrott  
YouTube video courtesy of Seaside (California) City Hall.

Book: *The Boondogger's Bible - How to Fight Like City Hall to Win!!* (\$17 from Wanda Sue Parrott, P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821) or from amazon.com.

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Curious about Governor Newsom's plan? Click this link or copy-and-paste into your web browser to view: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CA-Comeback-Homelessness-Plan.pdf>