

UPSTATE

MAY 2026

REAL PRODUCERS



Dani Ezelle
and Sam

NATIONAL PET
MONTH ISSUE



Pets Of Top Producers
YVONNE HANCOCK

Moby, Tonto, and Oreo

RACHEL DANKEL
and Oliver (Oli)

ERIN PARKER
and Lady

MELISSA POWELL
Jumper and Whiskey

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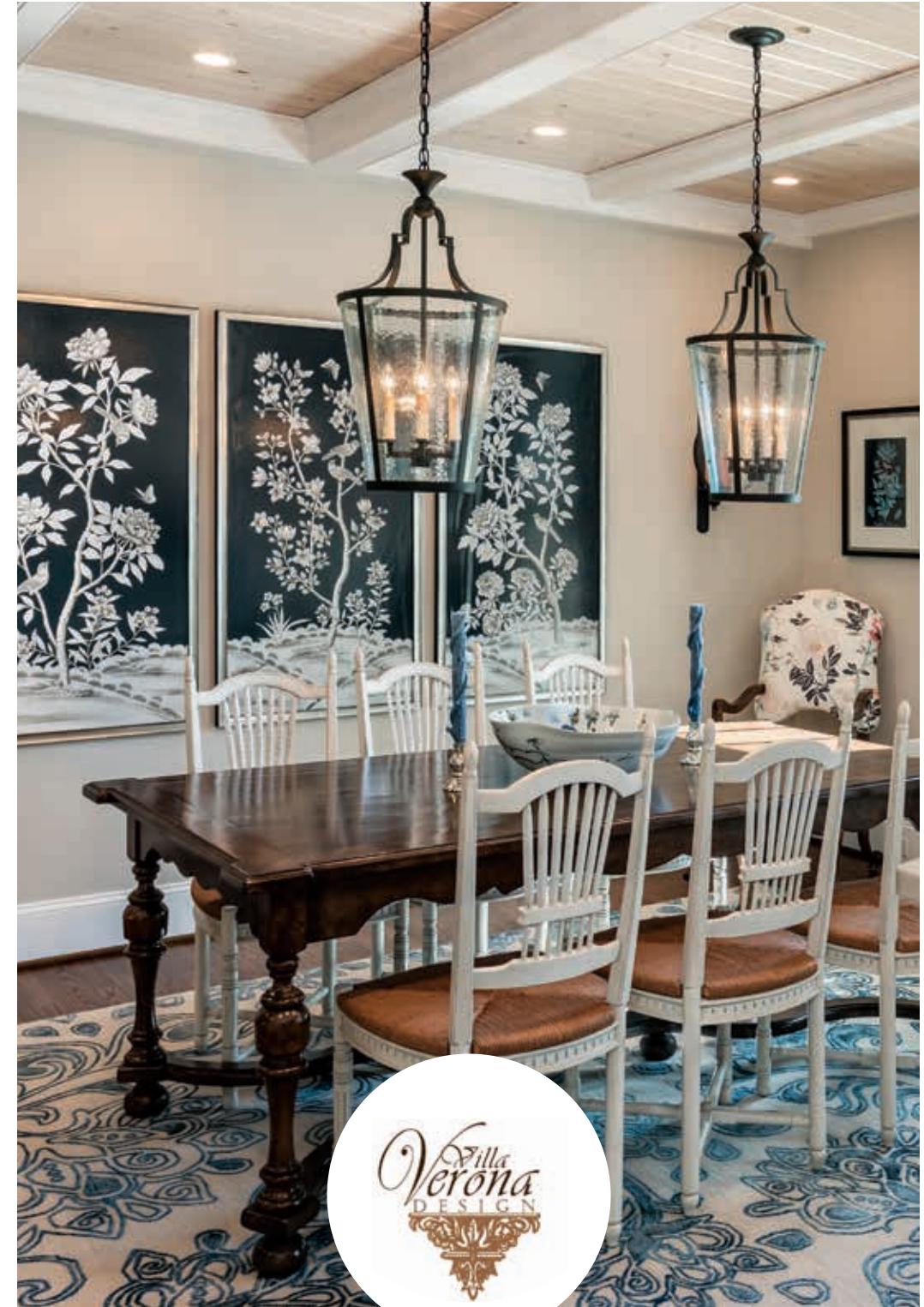


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The team at the Williamston office has strong connections to the local community, which helps them provide valuable insights and show real concern in every conversation. With the guidance and experience of Kenneth Rhodes & Associates, the office remains a dependable source for trustworthy coverage and personalized help.

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Outside of work, Kelli enjoys traveling with her husband, Neil, cheering on the Clemson Tigers, trying new restaurants, and spending as much quality time with friends as possible.



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May 2026

As we welcome the month of May, we are reminded of the many reasons this season is meaningful. With Mother's Day approaching, we take time to recognize the mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures whose support and guidance shape our families and communities.

May is also **National Pet Month**, and in this issue we are pleased to highlight the pets that play a special role in the lives of several local agents. Real estate is a demanding profession, and for many agents, their pets provide a sense of balance and companionship after busy days of showings, negotiations, and closings. The stories and photos shared in this issue offer a glimpse into the personal side of the professionals who make up our industry.

This month we are proud to feature:

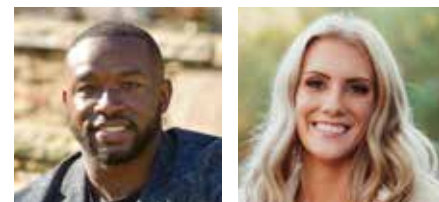
- Dani Ezell and his companion Sam
- Yvonne Hancock and her trio of pets Moby, Tonto, and Oreo
- Rachel Dankel and her pup Oliver (Oli)
- Erin Parker and her companion Lady
- Melissa Powell and her pair Jumper and Whiskey

These features are a reminder that behind every successful professional is a personal life filled with meaningful relationships - including the sweet pets who greet them each day.

Additionally, please check out the article about one of our Partner Spotlight, **Cedric Johnson with CJ's Plumbing**. Our Preferred Partners play an important role in supporting the real estate community, and Cedric's dependable service and strong relationships exemplifies the collaboration that helps our industry thrive.

We hope this month's issue puts a smile on your face. It was truly a joy for our team to put together. And in conclusion, we wish a very well-deserved, "Happy Mother's Day" to all the hardworking women in Real Estate!

Warm regards,



Robert & Sierra Smith
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Erin Parker & Lady

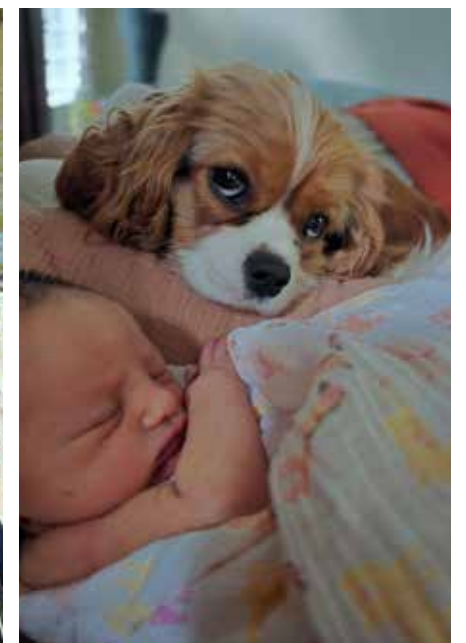
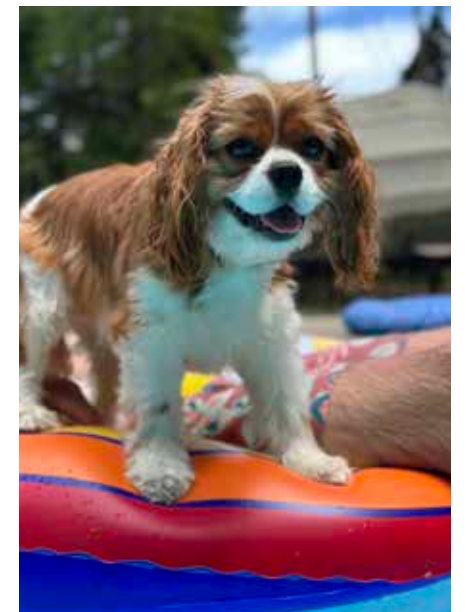
WRITTEN BY:
AMY PORTER



For Erin Parker, home wouldn't be complete without Lady, her lovable four-legged sidekick who has truly never met a stranger. With a personality as big as her heart, Lady has a special talent for making everyone she encounters smile. Whether she's greeting guests, tagging along beside Erin, or simply being her hilarious self, she brings a contagious joy everywhere she goes.

At home, Lady's days are filled with fun and responsibility. She loves playing with the family cat, Esco, and has proudly taken on the role of watchful protector for her new baby sister, Daphne. From playtime to cuddle time, Lady is always close, making sure her people feel safe and loved.

What makes Lady so special to Erin? She is the ultimate companion—loyal, affectionate, and endlessly entertaining. Through laughter, tail wags, and constant devotion, Lady fills their home with warmth and happiness, reminding everyone that life is simply better with a dog by your side.





DANI EZELLE

& HIS FAITHFUL COMPANION, SAM

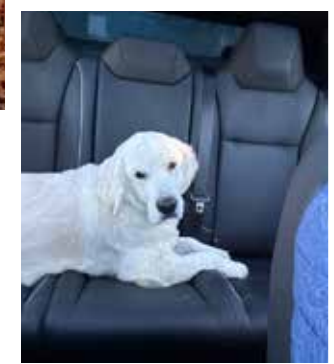
WRITTEN BY: AMY PORTER

For Dani Ezelle of Taylors, South Carolina, home wouldn't be complete without Sam, his five-year-old English Golden Retriever. With his calm spirit and gentle heart, Sam is much more than a pet—he's a steady, joyful presence in Dani's busy life.



WHETHER AT HOME OR OUT AND ABOUT, SAM IS HAPPIEST JUST BEING NEAR HIS PEOPLE.

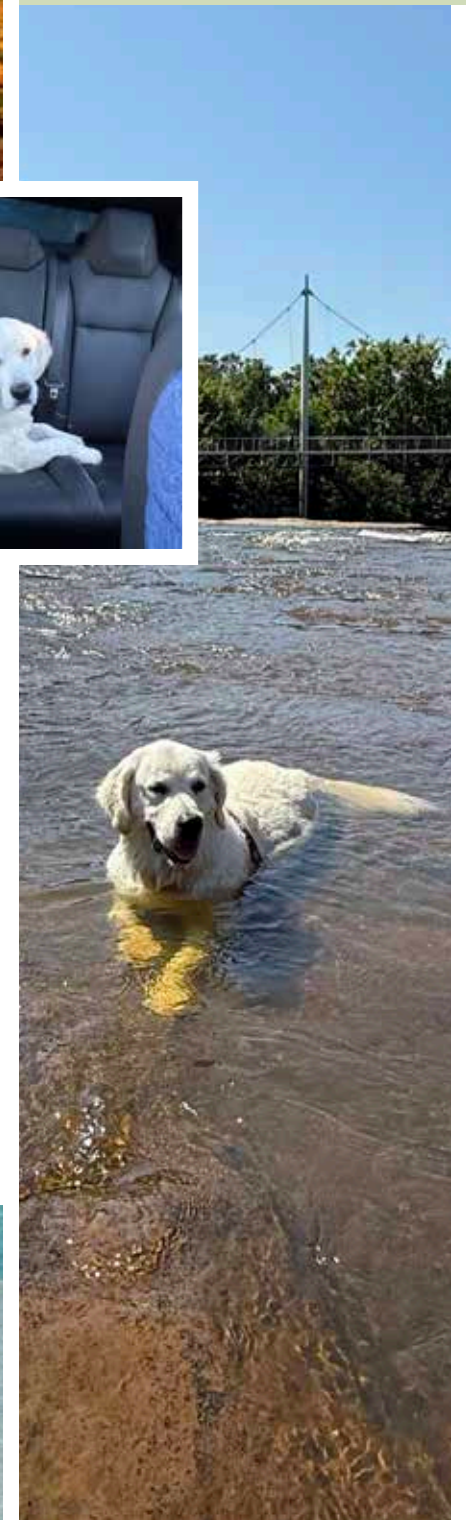
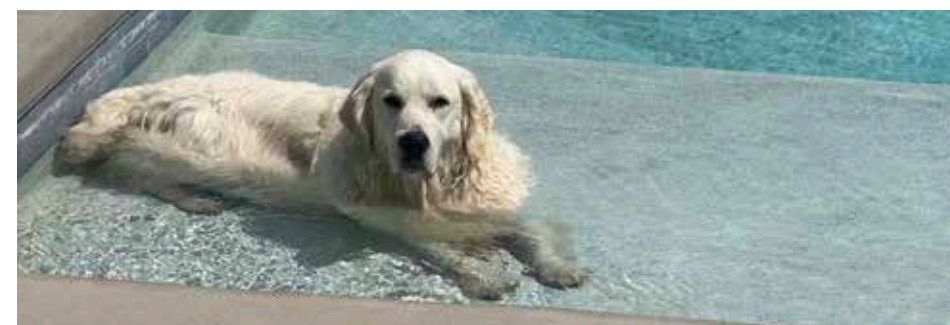
Described as having “the calmest, sweetest temperament you could imagine,” Sam is truly one of a kind. In all his five years, he has only barked twice. His quiet confidence and easygoing nature make him a comforting companion whether the day calls for activity or rest. If someone is ready to play, Sam happily joins in—but the moment the fun winds down, he's perfectly content to lie beside you, simply enjoying your company.



One of Sam's most endearing qualities is his loyalty. Dani doesn't even need a leash—he naturally stays right by his side wherever he goes. Whether at home or out and about, Sam is happiest just being near his people. And if there's a golf cart ride involved, even better. Riding along, ears gently blowing in the breeze, Sam soaks in every moment, completely content just to be part of the adventure.

Sam has never met a stranger. He lives for being petted and has a way of instantly connecting with everyone he encounters. His gentle demeanor makes him especially wonderful with children. In fact, Dani shares that the very first thing his four boys do when they come home is look for Sam. That kind of bond says everything about the role he plays in their family.

In a profession like real estate—where relationships, trust, and steady guidance matter—Sam's personality mirrors many of the qualities Dani brings to his clients each day. Kind, dependable, and always present, Sam is more than special. He's family, a faithful companion, and a daily reminder that sometimes the greatest joy comes from simply being together.





Building Success
Through Service
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Cedric Johnson

CJ'S PLUMBING

PHOTOS BY:
ARROWHEAD
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CEDRIC JOHNSON, owner of CJ's Plumbing in Greenville, has built his business on hard work, family values, and a commitment to customer satisfaction. Over four years, Cedric has earned a reputation for excellence in commercial and residential plumbing, gaining the trust of homeowners and businesses alike.

Cedric's journey into plumbing began in 2008 when economic challenges led him to leave college. He seized an opportunity to learn commercial plumbing and discovered a passion for problem-solving that aligned with his love for math and physics. What started as a necessity evolved into a career combining technical expertise with creativity.

"My background in these subjects has been invaluable in approaching plumbing as a series of solvable problems," he says. "Every job presents a unique challenge, and I enjoy finding the best solution for each situation."

CJ's Plumbing offers services like water and waste management, gas line installation, fixture replacements, remodels, and water heater installations. Cedric's philosophy centers on delivering solutions that address the root cause of issues, ensuring long-term satisfaction. "We strive to offer solutions," he explained. "Our customers get an experienced professional who takes personal responsibility for proper repairs. It's not just about fixing the problem; it's about preventing future ones."

This approach has made CJ's Plumbing a trusted resource for REALTORS®, helping close deals by making repairs, providing estimates, or updating fixtures to enhance property appeal. Johnson's efficiency and high-quality results have solidified his reputation in the competitive real estate market.

Cedric's business philosophy is deeply influenced by his personal experiences and faith. Growing up, he watched his mother raise him and his siblings through challenging times, an experience that shaped his approach to customer service.



“I make it a priority to understand the products we're installing.”

"Seeing my mom's professionalism from a young age shaped how I interact with customers today," he reflects. "Additionally, my faith guides how I conduct business, striving to exhibit Christian values in all my interactions. Treating people with respect and integrity is at the core of everything we do."

This commitment to service is reflected in the company's principles: leave no trace, ensuring work areas are clean, and always give customers more than they pay for. Johnson believes these small but significant details set his business apart and create lasting impressions. As the plumbing industry





evolves, particularly with energy-efficient water heaters and advanced technologies, Johnson remains committed to staying informed.

"I make it a priority to understand the products we're installing," he said. "This knowledge allows us to offer customers options between repairs and replacements when issues arise. It's about empowering them to make informed decisions."

Outside of work, Cedric's life revolves around his family. He and his wife Anita, are proud parents to Ethan (age 20), Taylor (age 14), Autumn (age 13), and

Houston (age 12). The family enjoys outdoor activities like hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains, camping, and kayaking. "Kayaking on Lake Tahoe was by far our best trip to date," he shares. "No matter the activity, we just enjoy being together. Family time is incredibly important to me, and I cherish every moment we spend outdoors."

When not with family, Cedric enjoys perfecting his craft on a wood-fired offset smoker, combining his love for cooking with quality time. Whether experimenting with recipes or hosting gatherings, he finds joy in creating meals that bring people together.

For Cedric, success isn't just financial. "Success to me is having the options of how to utilize my time without regrets," he explained. He hopes to be remembered as someone who overcame circumstances, built lasting relationships, and made a difference in others' lives.

As CJ's Plumbing grows, the team remains focused on maintaining the high standards and personal touch that define the business. For REALTORS® and homeowners in Greenville, Cedric and his team are ready to tackle any plumbing challenge, always striving to exceed expectations.

In an industry where reliability and expertise are paramount, CJ's Plumbing has become a trusted partner, embodying the values of hard work, family, and community. Johnson's dedication to service, family, and faith ensures CJ's Plumbing will continue to thrive and positively impact the community for years to come. ▾



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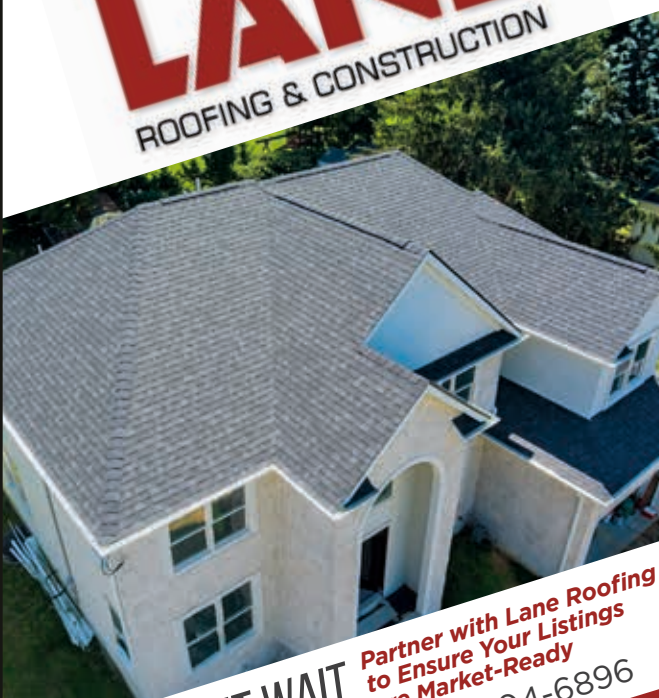
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Paws, People, & Plenty of Love



Melissa Powell's Golden Doodles Bring Joy to Every Adventure

WRITTEN BY: AMY PORTER

For many real estate professionals, home is where the heart is. For Melissa Powell of Howard Hanna Allen Tate Pine to Palm Real Estate, home is also where two energetic golden doodles—Jumper and Whiskey—fill every day with laughter, companionship, and adventure.

Melissa's beloved pups are much more than pets; they are truly part of the family.

"Honestly, they are my kids more than my dogs," Melissa says with a smile. "They really have no idea that they're dogs. They think they're human."

Jumper, the playful male, and Whiskey, the equally spirited female, are known for their sweet personalities and joyful energy. Whether they're greeting friends or tagging along for a day out, their enthusiasm is contagious. Like many doodles, they thrive on activity and companionship—something Melissa and her family are always happy to provide.

Whiskey especially loves a good game of fetch and rarely turns down the opportunity to chase her favorite tennis ball. Both dogs share a love for being on the water, where boat rides and swimming rank high on their list of favorite activities. For them, a day near the lake is pure happiness.

But the fun doesn't stop there.

Jumper and Whiskey are always ready for the next outing, whether it's cruising around the neighborhood on the golf cart or heading out to enjoy the energy of game day in Clemson.

When the fall football season rolls around, the excitement around Clemson

Tigers football games isn't limited to fans in orange—Jumper and Whiskey are eager participants as well. Like true members of the Upstate community, they enjoy being part of the crowd and soaking up the excitement that surrounds Clemson football.

At the heart of it all, though, what they love most is simply being with their people.

"If they can be around people, they are having the best time," Melissa shares.

That constant companionship reflects the same relationship-centered spirit Melissa brings to her real estate career. Just as she values time spent with family and community,

she understands how meaningful it is for people to find a home where life's best moments—big and small—can unfold.

And for Melissa, many of those moments include two happy golden doodles who are always ready for the next adventure.

Whether it's a boat ride on a sunny afternoon, a game of fetch in the yard, or a golf cart cruise through the neighborhood, Jumper and Whiskey are right where they believe they belong—at the center of the family, living life to the fullest.

After all, in their world, they're not just dogs.

They're family.



YVONNE

HANCOCK

& Three Loyal Teammates

WRITTEN BY: AMY PORTER



For Yvonne Hancock, home is wherever her three pups are waiting. Moby, Tonto, and Oreo aren't just pets—they're family, coworkers, running partners, and the very best welcome committee after a long day in real estate. Through every season of life and every twist in the market, they remain her most loyal team.

Moby, her Golden Retriever, is the athlete and gentle giant of the group, always ready for the next adventure. He loves long runs, wide open spaces, and any excuse to be outside exploring. Trips to the beach are at the top of his list, especially when he gets to charge into the surf and chase the rolling waves. Equal parts playful and affectionate, Moby is convinced he's human and never turns down the chance to curl up for a cuddle after the excitement winds down. His calm, loving presence has a way of making everything feel right at home.

Tonto, a Mini Australian Shepherd, is the social butterfly. Curious and friendly, he approaches every outing as an opportunity to meet someone new. Whether he's heading to the dog park or simply out for a walk, Tonto is happiest when he's surrounded by friends—



both two-legged and four. His outgoing, joyful personality turns even a quick trip outside into a mini reunion.

Then there's Oreo, the Border Collie/Mini Australian Shepherd mix and proud representative of the working breeds. Oreo lives for the chase—especially when a tennis ball or frisbee enters the picture. Don't let his size fool you; this pup has serious hang time and spends plenty of moments airborne, amazing anyone lucky enough to watch. True to his instincts, he also keeps a careful eye on his pack, happily herding Moby and Tonto whenever he thinks they need a little direction.

When Yvonne's daughters left for school, the trio stepped into an even bigger role. They became

steady companions during the empty-nest season, filling the house with energy, comfort, and plenty of laughter. They sit faithfully beside her during late nights of contracts, phone calls, and emails, offering quiet support simply by being close.

And no matter how long or challenging the day has been, Yvonne can count on the same heartwarming routine. Three devoted faces wait at the door, tails wagging, ready to trade the stress of the day for unconditional love and a big hug.

After hours spent showing homes and serving clients, Yvonne says there is no better emotional support than coming home to Moby, Tonto, and Oreo—the teammates who never clock out.





WRITTEN BY: AMY PORTER

Rachel Dankel & Oliver (Oli)

For Rachel Dankel of Bluefield Realty Group, home has always included the gentle presence of one very special pup—Oliver, affectionately known as Oli. At 17½ years old, this 12.5-pound white Peekapoo has long since earned legendary status in the Dankel household.

Oliver first came into their lives as a birthday surprise for Rachel's daughters, who were turning seven and nine. After plenty of wishing for a dog, their parents presented them with Oli—and the reaction was unforgettable. There were tears of joy, hugs all around, and the beginning of a bond that would only grow stronger with time.

From day one, Oliver showed his sweet nature. Calm, loving, and incredibly well-disciplined, he quickly became not just the girls' dog, but a steady and loyal member of the entire family. Nearly two decades later, his temperament hasn't changed a bit. Rachel says they are continually amazed at how healthy he is and how much love he still brings to each day.

Now that Rachel's daughters live in Colorado, visits home mean extra cuddles with their beloved pup. They miss him dearly and count the days until they can see him again. In the meantime, Oliver keeps Rachel and her husband company, happiest when he's curled up beside them on the couch, snugly wrapped in his favorite Snoopy blanket.

Described as the sweetest, most precious, and loyal companion anyone could hope for, Oliver has been an extraordinary blessing to the Dankel family. During National Pet Month, Rachel celebrates not only the many years they've shared with Oli, but the immeasurable joy he continues to bring into their lives.



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