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WHO REALLY Runs THE Show?

 Let's be honest. We spend a lot of time in Real Producers celebrating some pretty impressive people.

Top-producing agents. Successful business owners. Community leaders. People who negotiate complicated deals, lead teams, solve problems, and somehow keep a hundred plates spinning at once.

But this month, we're recognizing the ones who are actually in charge.

The dogs who interrupt Zoom calls.

The cats who believe laptops were designed specifically as heated beds.

The four-legged "assistants" who have absolutely no respect for deadlines, appointments, personal space, or freshly cleaned clothes.

Welcome to our **Pets of Real Producers** edition!

We had so much fun seeing your submissions and hearing the stories behind the animals that are part of your families. And while this edition is definitely meant to be lighthearted, there's something pretty great underneath it all.

Pets have an incredible way of connecting people.

You can know someone professionally for years and then suddenly discover you're both crazy dog people, or that the person sitting across from you at an event has a rescue with an unbelievable story. Walls come down. Conversations get easier. We get to know the person behind the business.

And really, that's what Real Producers has always been about.

Yes, we celebrate success. But more importantly, we want to create opportunities for the people in our real estate community to **know one another better**.



Oliver — Editor-in-Cat
Sadie — Director of Pawblic Relations

Because when that happens, relationships grow, trust grows, and our entire community becomes stronger.

So this month, enjoy something a little different.

Meet the pets. Read the stories. Laugh at the photos. And if you happen to recognize someone at our next event because you remember their dog instead of their sales volume, I'd say this edition did its job.

A huge thank-you to everyone who shared a piece of your family with us. And, of course, thank you to our Preferred Partners who make Real Producers possible and allow us to continue telling the stories of this incredible community.



Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a feeling several of our featured pets are expecting royalties.

Jeff White
Owner/Publisher

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Jack,

THE SHAGGY STAR OF BRANDON



plenty of delighted reactions when they take him out: “The Shaggy Dog!” is a favorite. Wherever Jack goes, someone seems to want a selfie.

He’s happy to say hello, arriving with a bouncing gait and hair flowing in every direction. Then, just as quickly, a new person, scent or bit of activity catches his attention. Jack has places to be, even if he hasn’t quite decided where.

His outings take him from walks in the park to trips to Home Depot and visits to Peachtree Village, a local assisted living community. At home, Jack shares the spotlight with his canine sisters, Penny the Golden Retriever and Wookiee the Labradoodle. Beth and Lance call him the leader of their three-dog crew, though he has become a good playmate for his sisters, too.

Keeping that magnificent coat looking its best takes serious work. Jack visits **Tino’s Pet Grooming & Training every week**, and Beth and Lance are quick to give the team credit. “They’re the heavy lifters,” they say. “Honestly, we couldn’t do it without them. We’d have to keep him shaved!” Thanks to Tino’s, Jack can keep turning heads in all his shaggy glory.

Jack also has a career. Lance, an attorney, gave him a place at his law firm under the name “**Creed the Law Dog.**” Between his firm profile, Facebook page and appearances in local law commercials shown during Brandon High sports broadcasts, Jack may be one of the most recognizable dogs in town.

His story with the Stevens family began about seven years ago, when Beth and Lance welcomed him as a foster dog

from Louisiana. Jack was estimated to be one or two years old at the time. It took only a few days for them to realize fostering would be a very short chapter.

“Oh, we are keeping this dog,” they decided.

These days, Jack has a family, two sisters, a legal alias and a growing collection of fans. And with a little weekly help from his friends at Tino’s, he’s always ready for his next selfie.



If you spot a shaggy dog riding through Brandon in a Jeep with a “3 DOGS” license plate, chances are you’ve met Jack.

Jack is an Old English Sheepdog, a rare sight in Mississippi. His enormous coat makes him hard to miss, especially in a place better known for heat and humidity than cool, sheepdog-friendly weather. Beth and Lance Stevens hear



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The Four-Legged Power Players

We spend every month telling the stories of some pretty incredible people in real estate. But this month, we’re turning the spotlight toward the ones who are really running the show.

The dogs riding shotgun to put up signs. The four-legged assistants tagging along to closings and listing appointments. The pets listening patiently to all the real estate drama. And the companions waiting at home who somehow know exactly when their humans have had one of those days.

They make us laugh. They keep us grounded. They remind us to play, rest and occasionally stop barking long enough to listen.

Most importantly, they remind us what makes a house feel like home.

Meet the Pets of *Central Mississippi Real Producers*.

BEAU
A DOG, A PROMISE &
A WHOLE LOT OF LOVE

Human: Mandy Gardner
Maselle & Associates, REALTORS®
MIXED BREED | AGE 6

Beau was Mandy’s dad’s shop and farm dog.

When Mandy’s father passed unexpectedly in September 2024, one of the last things she had told him was simple:

She would take care of his dog.

And she has.

Beau became king of the castle his very first night in Mandy’s home. But his place in her life goes much deeper than that.

Every day, Beau gives Mandy a connection to her dad. In his familiar face and companionship is a reminder of someone she loves and a promise she was able to keep.

Mandy likes to imagine her dad looking down and enjoying the sight of his old farm dog living the good life.

And Beau?

He apparently thinks Mandy hung the moon.

BEAU’S ADVICE:
“Work hard, play hard!”

LIFE IS BETTER BECAUSE...
“Beau thinks I hung the moon!”



ARROW
A SECOND CHANCE TO RUN

Human: Laura Jackson
Maselle & Associates, REALTORS®
THOROUGHBRED | AGE 19

Before Arrow became Laura’s horse, he was a racehorse.

He had reportedly been successful on the track, but his life took a much darker turn afterward. Arrow eventually ended up at Mississippi Horse Rescue, where he was rescued from slaughter, rehabilitated and adopted.

But his story wasn’t finished.

When his first adopter could no longer keep him, Arrow returned to the rescue. By then, Laura was volunteering there.

At a Halloween event, Arrow became Laura’s project. She painted the former racehorse to look like a giraffe — a process that took plenty of time and gave Laura plenty of opportunity to fall completely in love with him.



So she adopted him.

That was about seven years ago.

The horse who had once been discarded eventually found the person who saw his value beyond what he could produce.

Today, Arrow brings Laura something far more valuable than winnings: joy and peace, even on the worst days.

ARROW’S ADVICE:
“Stay patient, trust your instincts, and always look for open spaces. Keep moving forward, but don’t forget to pause and take in the view, because location matters more than anything.”

BANDIT
SORRY, SON. THE DOG STAYS.

Human: Kasey Finklea
Union Home Mortgage
GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER | AGE 5

Technically, Bandit was the grandpup.

That was before he moved in.

Bandit came to live with Kasey when her son moved back home. Somewhere along the way, the temporary arrangement became a permanent attachment.

Then Kasey’s son got engaged and announced he was moving out.

The family was thrilled.

“Congratulations! We’re so happy for you!”

There was just one small condition.

He could go.

Bandit couldn’t.

So Kasey’s son got the fiancée and the new home. Kasey got the dog.

Fair trade.

BANDIT’S ADVICE:
“Don’t just show me the house, show me the backyard. I have priorities!”

LIFE IS BETTER BECAUSE...
“He is smarter than most humans.”



TITO & TIPSY

LOVE PASSED FORWARD

Human: Marianne Coker
BHHS Gateway Real Estate
MALTIPOO & CAVAPOO



Tito came to Marianne because someone else loved him enough to let him go.

His previous owner was dying of cancer and wanted to know that Tito would have a loving home where he could flourish. Marianne met her, was approved to adopt him and made a quiet commitment of her own: to give Tito the same unconditional and selfless love he had already known.

A year and a half later, Tito’s world changed again.

Enter Topsy.

The Cavapoo puppy joined the family because Marianne didn’t want Tito to be lonely or bored.

Mission accomplished.

Tipsy has shaken up the house in the best possible way and, according to Marianne, is making everyone young again.

One dog arrived carrying the legacy of someone’s love. The other arrived bringing a whole new burst of life.

THEIR ADVICE:
“Be happy! Do the best you can do for them! Be selfless!”

SAVVY

THE TINY PLOT TWIST

Human: Delayne McGowan
Trifecta Real Estate
TOY SCHNAUZER | AGE 1

Delayne and her husband had it figured out.

They were empty nesters. They had grandchildren. They wanted to travel. They hadn’t owned a pet in almost six years.

Another dog simply wasn’t part of the plan.

Then their daughter got a Toy Schnauzer.

They fell in love but held firm. They’d just babysit occasionally.

Then, while Delayne and her husband were celebrating their anniversary in Savannah, Georgia, in July 2025, their daughter called.

There was a new litter.

So much for the plan.



They fell in love with one little girl, named her Savanah after the trip and started calling her Savvy.

Today, Savvy rides along with Delayne to put up and take down real estate signs, snuggles with her at night and even has a stroller so she can begin joining them on more adventures.

Apparently, the empty-nest plan just needed one small adjustment.

SAVVY’S ADVICE:
“Play nice!”

LIFE IS BETTER BECAUSE...
“She has brought us so much love we didn’t know we were missing!”

TUCKER & GRACE

HEALING COMES IN SMALL PACKAGES

Human: Tanya Brieger
NextHome Realty Experience
JAVANESE | AGE 6

The year 2020 brought Tanya an extraordinary amount of loss.

She lost her father and her uncle, along with her first pair of beloved Havanese siblings.

Then came an unexpected phone call.

A breeder who had stopped breeding for nine years happened to have a litter. She brought the entire litter to Tanya’s home and let her choose.

Tanya jokes that she would have taken all of them if she could.

Instead, Tucker and Grace became hers.

These little dogs couldn’t erase the grief Tanya had experienced, but they could bring love into the middle of it.



Their affection, entertainment and companionship helped heal a hurting heart and brought joy back even on some of the hardest days.

They also discovered another hobby.

TUCKER & GRACE’S ADVICE:
“It’s great fun trying to jump on a Zoom call with our mom!”

DALLAS

TINY LEGS, BIG-TIME REAL ESTATE SKILLS

Human:
Kimberly Walker
E Speed Realty
RED PIEBALD LONG-HAIRED DACHSHUND AGE 1



Dallas has absolutely no idea that he is a tiny dachshund.

As far as he’s concerned, he’s a full-time member of Kimberly’s real estate team.

Dallas accompanies her while she works from home, heads out to properties and takes photos at listings. His unofficial résumé includes REALTOR® associate, security detail, client-relations specialist and occasional commercial star.

Real estate brings long days, negotiations, endless calls and plenty of unexpected challenges. Dallas brings something else: enthusiasm.

His loyalty is unwavering, his attitude is contagious and he has a remarkable ability to make people smile.

DALLAS’ ADVICE:
“Treat every client like they’re your favorite person walking through the front door. Be loyal, communicate often, celebrate the wins and stay close during the stressful parts.”

And one more thing:

“Sniff out the red flags early... and don’t chase every deal that runs past you. Some are better left in the neighbor’s yard.”

COOPER

STOP AND SNIFF THE ROSES

Human: Jess Burns
Coldwell Banker Graham

**ENGLISH SPRINGER
SPANIEL | AGE 5**

Cooper has helped Jess discover that love doesn't need to be complicated.

Sometimes it's a wagging tail, a goofy personality and simply being together.

Through different seasons of life, Cooper has remained a source of comfort, laughter, peace and unconditional companionship.

COOPER'S ADVICE:

"Don't forget to stop and sniff the roses — and make sure every home has a good backyard and a doggy door!"



LOUIS BOUDREAUX

DON'T SWEAT THE LITTLE THINGS

Louis Boudreaux keeps the family busy with morning walks, boat rides, games of catch and plenty of cuddles.

He's become an important part of the rhythm of everyday life — and has a fairly simple philosophy for enjoying it.

LOUIS' ADVICE:

"Take time for you and me to play daily, and don't sweat the little things."



Human: Kim Goodson | Crye-Leike
**CAVALIER KING CHARLES
AGE 2**



Human: Suzanne Foster |
Southern Magnolias Realty

GOLDENDOODLE | AGE 4

BAMA

SNIFF OUT THE GOOD STUFF

Bama arrived at just the right time as Suzanne and her husband adjusted to a new season following his retirement.

He became companion, comic relief, travel buddy and devoted grandkid sidekick.

Bama doesn't want to miss anything. If the family is going, he probably believes he should be going too.

Best of all, he listens to all the real estate drama without judging any of it.

BAMA'S ADVICE:

"Be loyal, love people, sniff out a good deal, and always know when to stop barking and listen."



CHARLIE

TREATS, TRUST & TAIL WAGS

Human: Debbie Carter
Merck Team Realty

MALTI-POO | AGE 4

Charlie has a special talent: making Debbie feel like she is the single most important person in his entire world.

His real estate requirements are equally simple.

CHARLIE'S ADVICE:

Always greet the pet when entering a home, make sure they know you're friendly and, if you happen to notice treats on the counter with Charlie's name on them, feel free to distribute accordingly.

A pat on the head is also acceptable.

BONNIE

A MATCH MADE AT THE SHELTER

Ashley met Bonnie while volunteering at an animal shelter.

The connection was immediate.

Ashley knew Bonnie wasn't simply another shelter dog she had met. She was coming home.

Since then, Bonnie has become a constant source of joy and a reminder that sometimes you don't necessarily choose the pet.

Sometimes you just recognize each other.

LIFE IS BETTER BECAUSE...
"She is always there to brighten my day!"



Human: Ashley McDaniel
Southern Homes Real Estate
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD
AGE 2



LALO

LOVE WITHOUT CONDITIONS

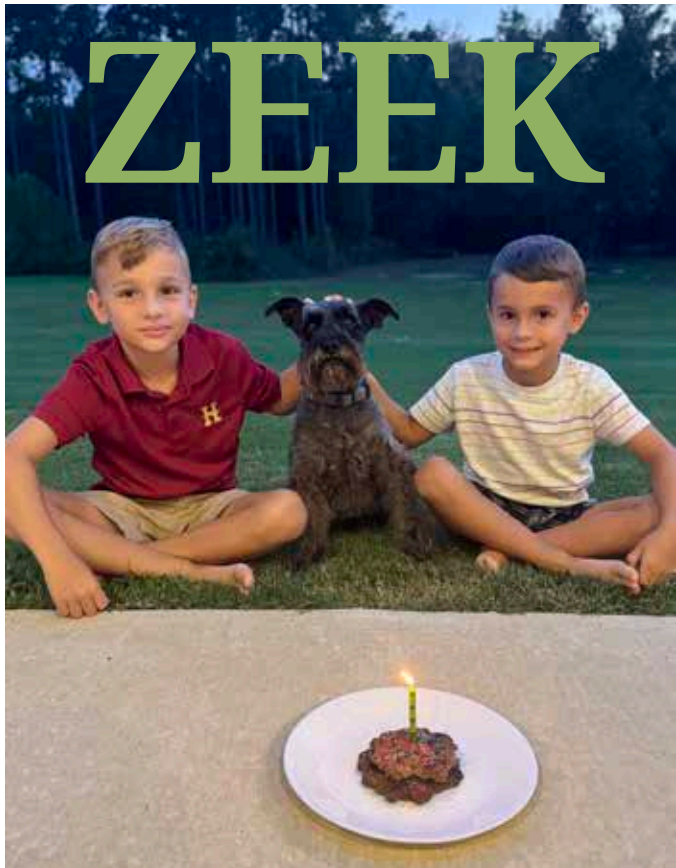
Human: Vanessa Barry | E Speed Realty
SIAMESE | AGE 1

Whatever flaws Vanessa might see in herself, Lalo neither notices nor cares.

His priorities are considerably simpler: cuddling with Vanessa and food.

And sometimes that kind of uncomplicated love is exactly what makes life better.

LALO'S ADVICE:
Have a "Bring Your Pet Day" for REALTORS® — and please remember that cats like treats too.



CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Human: Chelsey McMillen
Keller Williams
MINIATURE SCHNAUZER
AGE 13

Zeek was there before the kids.

Chelsey and her husband got him while they were still dating, which essentially made him their first child.

Then they had twins and discovered there may be a slight difference between raising a Schnauzer and raising two humans.

Today, one of Chelsey's greatest joys is watching Zeek pal around with the boys and sleep beside them every night.

ZEK'S ADVICE:
"Consistency is key. I've been asking for the same treat every day for 13 years."

Hard to argue with those results.

BELLA & BEAR

EVERY DAY IS A GIFT

Human: Jenny Winstead
Southern Homes Real Estate
MINI GOLDEN RETRIEVERS | AGES 6 & 3

Bella and Bear couldn't be more different.

Bella is the sweetheart. Bear is ready to play, fetch and swim.

Together, their different personalities bring an extra dose of joy into Jenny's home.

THEIR ADVICE:
"Don't sweat the small stuff. Treat each day as a gift. In a dog's life, each day is the best day to be alive!"





RUGER

THE LAND MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Human: Michael Oswald | SmallTown
Hunting Properties & Real Estate
DRAHTHAAR | AGE 8

Ruger doesn't just accompany Michael occasionally. He's been there from day one, tagging along day in and day out through the real estate business. He's also an accomplished hunter of "all things" and enough of a business partner that you might even spot him on Michael's signs and marketing.

RUGER'S ADVICE:
"Don't bark up the wrong tree."

ZOE

THE CLOSING ASSISTANT

Human: Tena Myers
Trifecta Real Estate LLC
MORKIE | AGE 5

Zoe has never been alone. She goes to work with Tena every day, sits on her desk greeting visitors with a ferocious tail wag and maintains a schedule many REALTORS® would envy. Closings? She's there. Listing appointments? Yep. Showing property to buyers? Of course. Lunch on a patio? She's available. Her manners are nearly perfect — unless another pet appears. Then management occasionally has to remind her how fortunate she is to be included with the adults.



ZOE'S ADVICE:
"Keep it real and love your profession, but not at the expense of loving your pet less."

"TOOTSIE" ROLL MOORE

FILLING THE EMPTY NEST



Human: Kimberly Grissom Moore
Havard Real Estate Group
**MINI GOLDENDOODLE
AGE 1**

Kimberly wasn't handling the empty-nest transition particularly well. Her daughter got married. Then her middle child moved into his own place. As Kimberly puts it, she does **not** like her birdies leaving the nest. Her middle child apparently noticed. So for Kimberly's birthday, the family surprised her with Tootsie. The kids may be growing up and moving out, but there's once again someone at home who's absolutely thrilled every time Mom walks through the door. **TOOTSIE'S ADVICE:** "Put your heart into your business because people can actually tell when you care!"



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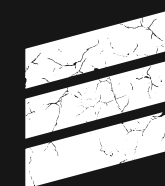
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Each year, Central Mississippi REALTORS® recognizes two individuals whose service to our members and our industry stands out. This year, we are proud to celebrate **Yolanda Parris, REALTOR® of the Year**, and **Mary Allen Bennett, Affiliate of the Year**.

Mary Allen Bennett, First American Home Warranty — 2026 Affiliate of the Year

Dependable, positive and always willing to help — that's how Mary Allen's peers describe her.

Her support of CMR members and the real estate industry has made her a valued partner in business and, more than that, a familiar, friendly face throughout our association.

Yolanda Parris, iProperty Gallery — 2026 REALTOR® of the Year

Yolanda's service almost speaks for itself. As our association's immediate past president, she has a proven track record of leading with integrity, enthusiasm and a genuine commitment to putting members first. Her leadership extends beyond CMR to the state level

through service on the Mississippi Association of REALTORS® Executive Committee and as co-chair of MARPAC.

Both women embody what makes this industry special: **showing up, giving back and making the people around them better.**

Congratulations, Mary Allen and Yolanda. **CMR is better because you're part of it!**



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