

Chapter 6 – It's a Dogs World by Jarvis

Sometime back a blog reader wrote and asked My People to tell about my adventures but My People kept putting it off so I will write my own chapter.



First to introduce myself: I am Jarvis the official Salish Aire Dog. I am multi-ethnic by heritage being a mixture of only the best genes from Jack Russells and Chihuahuas. My People kindly refer to me as a “Jackhuahua” (which seems much nicer than “mutt”). The day that I chose them from the shelter was very rewarding. They had some nice kids that were also visiting the shelter come and talk to me so I could dis-prove all of the nasty stuff written about Jack Russells not being good with children (who writes that stuff???). That was about 4 years ago when I was about a year old. I’ve never been able to tell My New People (Norman and Clarice) about my previous people but they understand I was well cared for before I was left outside of the shelter on my own. It’s sad that N&C don’t speak dog any better than they do but it’s a burden I must bear.

My job on Salish Aire is to keep the boat and My People safe. There is always the risk of them falling in the water so I watch them very carefully especially when they SCUBA dive which makes me very nervous. There are the usual problems to watch for like dogs that are strangers in my territory and people with shifty eyes (really, I wag and get along with about 99% of the people I meet but some are just not to be trusted so I warn My People with a good loud bark). We also have new challenges like sea gulls and the dock ducks (usually they are OK but sometimes I have to remind them that I am the alpha of the dock and they are expected to clear the deck when I bring My People through). Seals are kind of scary and they have really big teeth – I would chase them off the dock but My People watched too many movies about leopard seals eating penguins and so they had told me “NO” and won’t let me try my luck with the evil beasts (I really wouldn’t hurt them but they just aren’t nice when they growl at My People and then swim under the dock and laugh so they need a good barking at!). The other critter that drives me to barking is herons with their loud “squaaaaaaak” when they fly off – it is a very rude thing to say. Generally I just warn My People when someone walks by on the dock with a little “woof”. I think N really appreciates this as he is fairly hard of hearing.

At the marina I have a huge territory to patrol. It is much bigger than the yard I had at our terrestrial house. I take My People on walks about 3 times a day and make sure they get plenty of exercise while I check each and every tree, fire hydrant, light pole, bush, and blade of grass to see if any others like me have left twitter posts that I need to respond to – keeping up with social media is a HUGE job these days. I make sure that the Canada Geese aren't making too much of a mess on the park lawn – sometimes I have to chase them back into the water. During the summer there are hundreds of people visiting the marina and park and I have to make sure that they know how to properly pet a nice dog like me. The only thing I really miss from our last home is squirrels – there are a couple in the park but nothing like the crowd I got to chase before.

To help me get ready for living on a boat My People made sure that I got lots of time on our little boat before we moved. I know whenever I see preparations being made to leave the dock that we are going on a family adventure and I get excited too! On the little boat I didn't know where to pee or poo so I had to hold it until we got someplace where I could get off. Before we moved to Salish Aire My People bought me a fake grass mat and put one of my favorite peeing stones on it. I realized that they were trying to let me know that I could pee wherever the mat was. Now I know that they will be happy if I pee or poo wherever my mat is on the boat (usually it's near a deck drain on the foredeck but when its raining a lot they move it under cover to the back of the boat for me). I've heard there are some boat dogs that just never learn where it's OK to go and it becomes a big problem. (I do have to admit that sometimes when I'm left alone for too many hours and my bladder is just too full that I have had "accidents", poor C&N really don't like it when it happens. I know they are unhappy and hide in a corner when they find it.)

On the little boat they also let me practice piloting in case I need to cover those duties someday.



Generally I get around just fine on Salish Aire. I don't like the engine room so I stay out of there and I don't like the steps up to the boat deck so I generally don't go there either (but My People did put a net around the railing to protect me when I do). The stairs on the boat are pretty steep so I have to run all of the way up or all of the way down at once. (Sometimes my toy lands on one of the middle steps which makes it very hard for me to get.) I also have trouble with varnished floors that are not dog claw

friendly. One time I ran up the steps from the lower level and no one warned me that N was working in the engine room with a hatch open. I landed on his head and was very embarrassed so now I just sit and watch from the top of the pilot house steps when I see hatches open. I can usually jump from the boat to the dock but I like it better when My People put out my gang plank or carry me if the gap is too wide (when we first moved to the boat I tried to jump and my leash got stuck and I ended up in the water between the boat and the dock! Scaaaaaary!)

Just to make one think very clear – I love boating but Jackhuahuas HATE water. I have fallen in with my life jacket on and am just fine but I don't like it at all. (And sometimes C decides I need a bath – it's VERY humiliating!) I do love to chase a bark at waves on the beach (and dogs that live on boats get to spend a lot of time at the beach!)



All in my dog's day I sleep a lot (usually in front of one of my favorite heat vents or in sunny spot), I play with my stuffed dog toy (I can throw him clear up onto the salon table), I take My People for long walks, I enjoy my treats and then I go to bed in my heated (yes heated!) dog bed at the foot of My People's bed so I can protect them for the night.



If you have questions then please email My People and they will let me know.

Signed
Jarvis The Dog