

# Telling Tail Tales

Decaf: A Dog Story

By Ashley Hung



# Decaf: A Dog Story

Seven years ago, my constant begging for a puppy finally convinced my family to take in Decaf, our Maltipoo. Now, amidst the pandemic, Decaf has brought joy into our mundane shelter-in-place routines, acting like a catalyst for us to stay active and be outside on hikes. Along the way, I appreciated the bond between Decaf and me and the tranquility of beautiful nature.

Particularly at the beginning of the pandemic, shelter-in-place rules were strictly enforced, and we even had an 8:30 p.m. citywide curfew. During this difficult time, escaping the house with Decaf for some fresh air became one of my favorite activities, along with baking banana bread and buying rolls of toilet paper, of course. And because Decaf has always enjoyed adventuring in nature and smelling the luscious trees and flowers, my family and I spent almost every day with her exploring new hiking trails and forests that I never knew existed.

Last summer, we took Decaf on an RV trip to Santa Cruz, where we stayed for four days in a dog-friendly redwood park. Surprisingly enough, this was her first trip like this—a result of the pandemic, as we typically spend our summers and winters traveling, unable to bring her along. Decaf adored the adventures, running through the greenery and making new friends like Lucy, in this photo!

Although we have had Decaf for several years, to this day, we still create a myriad of new experiences. And especially due to the pandemic, the time spent with Decaf has allowed for new cherished moments, big and small.



Decaf  
Photo taken by Ashley Hung



Decaf and Lucy  
Photo taken by Ashley Hung



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