



**3 Tails & a Wink:
A Non-Fiction Children's Book
By Rosa Sterner**

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Chapter 1: The Introduction

Are you ready to meet a stubby-tailed Jack Russell Terrier; a fluffy-tailed American Eskimo, a long-tailed black Labrador Retriever and a tailless Welsh Corgi? I hope this array of playful photographs and observations of 3 Tails and a Wink provides some interesting insights as to each member of this unique pack as well as serve as an adventure into the world of dogs. Well, let us now get started with this *tale* Enjoy!



Chapter 2: Where 3 Tails & a Wink Reside

Situated on a grass-covered Pennsylvania mountain is a two story log cabin. It is surrounded by trees, wildlife and a nearby free flowing creek. There are many interesting sights, sounds and smells to explore for the wildlife here includes; a variety of birds, deer, foxes, toads, rabbits, field mice, groundhogs, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, snakes, salamanders, creek crayfish, spiders, all sorts of insects and *more*. Luckily for Mr. Tail, Ravy, Snowy and Coconut, this is home.

Oh, and by the way, not only do they get to experience the outside animals but *inside* their home as well. They live with a rabbit, two tiny aquatic frogs, two aquatic turtles, a big gold fish and a Beta fighting fish! Pets galore but let us meet the four that arrived first.



Chapter 3: Mr. Tail, The Jack Russell Terrier

Mr. Tail was the first to arrive. He is almost 8 years old now and probably the eldest in the pack. He was discovered at a plush New Jersey pet shop. Even at just 2 months old, Mr. Tail's feisty, large-and-in charge personality was obvious from the start. Also apparent was his intelligence (he comprehends lots of words and some in Spanish too) and mega high energy levels. Imagine coil springs for paws! Visualize too an ever moving stubby little white and black tail.

And although he is the smallest member of this pack he is, by far, *The* boldest. There are not many things that frighten Mr. Tail and some really should! For instance, he is not afraid to



walk beside large noisy farming machines. And, at one time or another, Mr. Tail has chased after cars, 18-wheeler trucks, tractors, deer, ground hogs and even thunder.

He has no fear of heights either. He will climb just about anything; be it highly stacked heavy logs, humongous stacks of cut tree branches, huge boulders, the picnic table, steep stairs-anything! And he is strong for his size. He can carry big chunks of rock in his mouth and for long distances. One day, he brought out of the woods a cut thick tree branch 3 times his size!

Is Mr. Tail is completely fearless? Alas, no. There is one thing that makes him panic to the point of running away. One thing that he *desperately* tries to avoid.

WATER!

You see, he hates to get wet and being wet. Water toys of any kind, puddles, the garden hose, getting a bath, getting dunked in a kiddie pool or being dunked in the creek are all things Mr. Tail dislikes. Perhaps it is because he gets chilly easily. When he gets a chill he begins to shiver something awful and for quite a long while. In fact, even during the summer it is common to see him shiver if he happens to get *slightly* wet. Give him the sun and he is happy to bask in its heat. It is truly one of his favorite things. Another thing he likes is to be photographed. He tries to sneak into every shot. Could it be this Jack Russel Terrier thinks he is handsome? You decide.



Mr. Tail at his busy best but he does rest now and again.



Chapter 4: Ravy, The Labrador Retriever

At first, Mr. Tail was not pleased by the arrival of puppy Ravy but now he absolutely adores him! Raven or Ravy (as he prefers) was the second member to join the pack. Ravy was purchased at about 8 weeks old from a Pennsylvania family selling a litter of Labrador Retrievers. He was not the runt, or the smallest one in the litter of puppies but he was the friendliest.

Ravy was also a gangling puppy-all bony legs and tail. He seldom ventured far from the security of his doggy bed. His timid nature made him jittery about many things. As he grew he became even more lanky. Running especially became quite a challenge for him. He stumbled around a lot as he strove to coordinate his long legs *and* tail.



Ravy catches his rope toy.

Now at 5 years old, Big Ravy can run most skillfully and while wagging his long tail like a helicopter propeller! Ravy also took a while to feel confident enough to explore the outside world but he did! And now he loves the great outdoors-particularly the creek. You see, unlike Mr. Tail, Ravy LOVES getting wet and **everything** about water. When it rains (and it really pours on a mountain) you can bet Ravy is outside getting soaked. Kiddie pools may not last long around Big Ravy, but at least there is the creek where he trots to for daily dips-no matter the season!

It is always funny to spot icicles hanging from Ravy's satiny soft fur after a dip in the creek during the coldest months of the year. He enjoys rolling around in snow and eating the falling snowflakes. Throw him a snowball and he will jump up to catch it in his mouth. And then *chomp!* It is gone!

Ravy is such a gentle, affectionate-seeking Lab who will probably always be a bit jittery about new experiences. Still, when he is chasing after a ball or when he is in water, Ravy is magically transformed into the fun-loving Lab he really is.



Ravy and his tongue get a lot of exercise. Even on Halloween!



Chapter 5: Princess Snowy, The American Eskimo

Snowy or Princess Snowy (as she prefers) was purchased from a pet shop in Hampton, Virginia at around 2 months old. Back then, Snowy was a ball of short, very fluffy white fur. Snowy was like most puppies in that she chewed or ripped apart all sorts of things (rugs, mattress trim, shoes, etc.,) But, stuffed plush toys were her favorites. *Especially* beanie babies (Sorry collectors).

Puppy Snowy's favorite playmate was a short haired tabby **cat** named Rose. Snowy must have liked Rose a lot because soon she began to act like a feline herself. Snowy would groom herself constantly, at times, licking her paws raw. She began to “paw” at things. The gold fish was no exception. Puppy Snowy was not interested in fetching after *anything*. Cat toys or any

kind of toy with a string attached attracted her. And she began to walk or run with her tail held high.

And she never practiced her barking. No “woof woofs” came out of puppy Snowy. The only noises she made were cat-like sounds. One day, a little boy on the street pretended to bark at Snowy and **that** was the instant she found her voice or should I say her bark?

Now at age 5 (she is a day younger than Ravy) Snowy retains most of her learned cat-like tendencies. And she is, by far, the most “verbal” of all. She uses unique sounds or different whines to “communicate” her wants, or convey her moods or simply for attention. And she has added monkey sounds to her repertoire. (Too much Animal Planet?)



Many people think the most attractive breed in this pack is the American Eskimo. She does get noticed. And is it any wonder? With flowing tail held high and feathery white fur swaying in the slightest breeze, Snowy can be poised, graceful and elegant. She just naturally has a dignified flair about her. Even when she sheds most of her fur!

Snowy enjoys the limelight but prefers to be admired from afar-very much like famous celebrities. She can become very aloof and moody. Most days, preferring to go off on her own. She dislikes strangers (be they fans or not) who stare, come close or **worse**, try to pet her. **This**

princess has been known to use her meanest growl to remind pushy fans not to get too friendly. And just like a true star, Snowy likes to shock us with outlandish behavior.

Some of her more memorable puzzling antics include rolling in wet or dry soil. Happily rolling in deer dung. Joyfully rolling in rotten bird eggs. Well, just *rolling in* all sorts of unknown smelly things. Furthermore, it must be said, Princess Snowy **can** behave, at times, in a most unladylike way with pillows, blankets, or some members of the pack (the rest is left to your imagination). Still, it is hard not to admire her hide-nothing-regret nothing attitude. Do you agree?



Princess Snowy and her many expressions.

Being leery of strangers-of any kind, Snowy was not happy about Coconut's arrival three years ago. Their Friendship was not an instant one but it seems to be an enduring one. It is only fair to add that Coconut's patience and tolerance helps a lot.



Chapter 6: Coconut, The Welsh Corgi

Coconut, was adopted from a New York City animal shelter where both she and her brother were placed. He was adopted first while she was being medically treated for kennel cough. Coconut was already full grown so nothing is known about this Welch Corgi's puppy days. Was she born without a tail or was it docked, or cut off later? We will probably never know. Even her age of 7 is a guess. All that was known then was that she looked like a fox, had the body of a hamster, the heavy fur of a bear, and she ran like a rabbit. But then her personality proved even *more* unique than her looks.



Coconut loves the snow.

Extremely stocky and short-legged, Coconut may not be graceful or poised like Snowy but when exposed to the public it is Coconut who is *The Star!* She is extremely sociable and naturally relaxed around new people. Any sort of friendly attention such as petting, rub downs, or hugs, yummy treats are all welcomed-thank you very much. And as an encore, she may just stand up on her tiny hind legs. She can be a bit camera shy but **shy** she is not. As for her lack of a tail? Well, who needs a tail when you can wink!



Coconut and her many adventures.

Chapter 7: The Pack

The pack as a whole get along very well. There are at times doggie “disagreements” occur but nothing serious. 3 Tails and a Wink happen to really care for each other. And each one seems to take on a certain role in the pack. Snowy fancies herself the leader while Coconut is the peace keeper and the herder. Wander too far from the pack or act rowdy and mild-mannered Coconut suddenly become Barkzilla! With **a lot** of excited barking and lightening speed she will chase after the ones (usually Mr. Tail and Ravy) she thinks need herding. If she reaches them they may get nipped on the rump or bum. The boys can usually outrun or dodge her but *not always*.

Mr. Tail, used to act as if he were pack leader but now he seems content to be second in command. As for Raven, he is very laid back while *in* the cabin but outdoors he is ever the the high spirited playful one. Most of his time is spent playing Go Fetch. He and Mr. Tail love to challenge each other as to who will get to the thrown ball first. Ravy likes to return the toy (so it can be thrown again and again) but Mr. Tail may decide to keep it. Coconut likes to join the boys at play but instead of running after the ball she will run after them! As for Princess Snowy...well, she just will not take part in such things.



All of the members in this pack interact and get along.

The pack is very protective of each other and their home. Snowy being the ever vigilant watchdog will bark if she sees or hears anything remotely unusual. The then Coconut will start to bark too and jump around as if trying to figure out what is happening and to note everyone's whereabouts. In a flash Mr. Tail is up and running. He will run circles around the cabin and into the woods to investigate. If he smells or sees anything strange (be it roaming deer, etc..) *then* he barks to alert Ravy to come and look. Ravy then adds *his* deep lion-like growl and fierce barking to the pack's already noisy display. With fur from his neck down his back standing straight up, Ravy will run to confront whatever it is. Team work at its finest! Were they trained this way? No, it is instinctive.

3 Tails & a Wink are four dogs; of different breeds, from different states, with different personalities that *became* a unique pack. All are individually unique too but they share one important similarity. Their inspiring passion for living in the here and now.

Chapter 8: The Other Pets Who Live With The Pack



3 Tails & a Wink get along with all of the other pets shown here.

In the Center is Buttons (the rabbit) then Goldie, Gilbert, Willy & Waldo, and frogs; Ichabod & Irving.

Chapter 9: The Awards Game

Awards Game

If each one of the 3 Tails and a Wink pack were given awards, here are some of things they would win for. Have fun guessing which one of the FOUR will get what award. Answers will come later.

1. Most Shedding to the Point-of-Almost-Bald Award goes to:
2. Only One to get stung by a Recluse Spider Award goes to:
3. Most Talented With His Tongue-besides Gene Simmons Award goes to:
4. Most in Need of a Few Sessions with Cesar Milan Award goes to:
5. The I Am The Queen's Favorite Breed Award goes to:
6. Likely to Take Off and Disappear For Hours Award goes to:
7. Most Likely to Console the Crying or Sobbing Award goes to:
8. Hot Dogs Rock Award goes to:
9. Most Likely to Growl at Justin Bieber Award goes to:
10. Most Stung by Yellow Jackets and Wasp Award goes to:
11. Most Likely to Chase after an Invisible Tail Award goes to:
12. Most Cool and Laid Back Award goes to:
13. Most Attractive White Mane Award goes to:
14. Put Spaghetti Sauce on everything Award goes to:
15. Smells Like a Chicken When Wet Award goes to:
16. Most Likely to Snooze On Betty White's Feet Award goes to:
17. Most Veterinarians Ideal Patient Award goes to:
18. Most Likely to Ride with the Sons of Anarchy Award goes to:
19. Most Likely to Suffer From Carsickness Award goes to:
20. Spins in Circles When Thrown a Ball Award goes to:

Chapter 10: A Special Note to Our Readers

Mr. Tail, Ravy, Snowy and Coconut were my inspiration for undertaking the tedious journey of learning how to write an ebook (I am still learning so please forgive my mistakes).

Vet visits, spaying and neutering procedures, rabies vaccines, dental cleanings, Lyme Disease testing and treatments are all very real expenses when owning a dog. Imagine four! But I want you to know that most if not all of the proceeds from the selling of this ebook or any others I may write in the future, will benefit all four members of this beloved pack. With the purchase of this ebook you are helping 3 Tails and a Wink. I thank you on their behalf. **Thank You!**

Soon, I hope to learn enough to make a website about 3 Tails & A Wink (since I have *a lot* of photographs and videos of them and more stories to tell). But for now, just know that I am currently at work on a second ebook about them. In the mean time, if you would like to write to your favorite member of The 3 Tails & a Wink Pack or if you have any questions that I may

be able to answer in my next ebook, we have the following emails;
the3tailsandawinkpack@aol.com or the3tailsandawinkpack@yahoo.com, or
the3tailsandawinkpack@gmail.com

If you would rather write a letter, here is the mailing address.

3 Tails & a Wink c/o R. Sterner, 633 Summer Valley Road, New Ringgold, PA 17960.

Chapter 11: Answers to Awards Game

Answers

1. Snowy, 2. Coconut, 3. Ravy, 4. Mr. Tail, 5. Coconut, 6. Ravy, 7. Snowy (yes, it's true),
8. Mr. Tail, 9. Snowy, 10. Mr. Tail, 11. Coconut, 12. Ravy, 13. Coconut, 14. Mr. Tail, 15.
Snowy, 16. Coconut, 17. Ravy, 18. Mr. Tail, 19. Snowy, 20. Ravy.

About the Author



Rosa Sterner was born and raised in New York City. She holds a BA in Fine Arts and is a former New York educator. Pennsylvania has been her home for almost 8 years. She is currently a full time artist and writer. The photograph above depicts one of her art pieces celebrating her husband's Pennsylvania Dutch heritage. She is currently working on two new ebooks. One is titled, Winter Fun with 3 Tails & a Wink and the other will showcase her mixed media art. No title as of yet. If you wish to write to her, send your letters to the address above or email; <mailto:artbysterner@aol.com>