



Mar 15, 2004

Bouncy Beulah Lives To Fish

By JIM TUNSTALL
jtunstall@tampatrib.com



Photo by: ANDY JONES
Beulah, a 6-year old pitbull-mastiff mix, keeps watch from the bow of her owner Rodney Walters' boat on the Withlacoochee River near their home.

INGLIS - Beulah can tell you a thing or two about where to wet a line.

Fact is, in these parts she's the most intense angler on four paws.

One moment, the 6-year-old mastiff-pit bull mix is lounging on the cool hardwood floor at the home of her humans, Rodney and Kay Walters.

Then comes the ``F" word.

``I never had a dog that wanted to fish before," Rodney Walters says, and her tail does a mambo.

``This dog would rather fish than eat. If I say, `Let's go fishing,' she leaves her food and goes to the door."

Once is tempting, but when he says the word the second and third times, there's no containing her.

Her claws skitter across the floor, and she puts on the brakes just before hitting the door.

When it's thrown open, she tears across the manicured lawn and catapults onto the dock as her bark pierces the air.

``She's ready," Walters says.

No kidding.

She's worked herself into a frenzy by the time everyone gets in the boat and Walters makes the first cast.

Still barking, she watches the line go out.

When it returns empty, she barks louder, as if she's offering encouragement.

``If a school of jacks swims by, she creates quite a ruckus," he says.

When a trio of porpoises shows up in the Withlacoochee River near her dock, well, there's no mistaking her joy.

She races from one end of her property to the other, trying to get their attention.

``One time we were out in the Gulf, and one came up and stuck its head up to the boat," Walters says.

``They were almost nose to nose. She loves them."

Beulah tried to spread the wealth by teaching her sister Bonzo, who lives with the Walters' daughter, Heather.

There's only one ``Fishing Dawg," though, and she takes her business seriously.

She occasionally hitches a ride with local guides, including Rick Muldrow, an inshore specialist who's based in Ocala but fishes out of Inglis and Yankeetown.

``It's a unique experience," he says with fatherly warmth.

``She is totally in touch with the fish. She only takes a break from one fishing hole to another."

If you catch one and she can get close enough, Muldrow adds, ``she licks it to death."

Her enthusiasm has earned her local celebrity status, mainly because she's a frequent and friendly face on the river.

She also has a Web site.

``It started as a joke," Walters says.

But it has grown into a guide to the area.

It has fishing reports, tide charts from Cedar Key to Homosassa and links to Muldrow and other guides.

It also hands out one- to five-paw hamburger ratings for a handful of restaurants.

``Of course, she can't go in," Walters says. ``We bring the burgers home."

Then he confides: ``And we give the ratings. She loves all of them."

Learn more about Beulah on the Internet at

Learn more about Beulah on the Internet at www.fishingdawg.com . Reporter Jim Tunstall can be reached at (352) 628-5558.

This story can be found at: <http://www.tampatrib.com/FloridaMetro/MGA8PZ01URD.html>

- [Go Back To The Story](#)