Joy of having a service dog is diminished by public attention

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I use a service dog, and I'm constantly barraged with requests to pet him. Other people who use service dogs warned me this would happen. Although the ADA does not require him to wear a vest, I bought one for him that reads, "Do Not Pet," which he wears in public. They ask me anyway!

They also ask what I use the dog for. Sometimes I'm tempted to say, "First, tell me about your medical history and then I'll tell you mine." I don't mind quietly and discreetly discussing with a store owner what my dog does, but for a stranger to walk up and expect me to share personal information is rude.

As excited as I am about how my dog has expanded my life, I do not want to spend my time answering strangers' questions or hearing about every dog they've ever owned.

Obviously, I'm still learning what it means to live with a service dog. Would you kindly share with your readers proper etiquette with service dogs and their owners? — **LIVING LARGER IN WASHINGTON STATE**

DEAR LIVING LARGER: I'm happy to. But you must be realistic. If you have a service dog, you must accept that people will be curious. However, what many people fail to understand is that when a service dog is out in public, the animal is WORKING, and should not be distracted from its task – which is ensuring the well-being of the owner.

The basics for interacting with service dogs are:

1. Always speak to the person first. Do not try to distract the dog.

2. Never touch the service dog – or ANY dog, for that matter – without first asking for and receiving permission.

3. Do not offer food to the animal.

4. Do not ask personal questions about the handler's disability or otherwise intrude on his or her privacy.

5. Do not be offended if the handler refuses to chat about the service dog.

DEAR ABBY: My son "John" and daughter-in-law "Bree" recently announced their second pregnancy via email, and asked that we keep the news in the immediate family for now.

I was so happy and excited that I notified my sister. She is my best friend and lives in another state. As it turns out, my sister shared the news with her daughter, who is good friends with Bree. My niece then texted congratulations to her.

At the end of the day, I received a nasty, dramatic phone call from Bree. She was furious that I had revealed her secret. My heart sank. It wasn't my intention to hurt her in any way. I apologized profusely, but now I'm afraid that this may have solidified the wedge between us because our relationship was never very close to begin with.

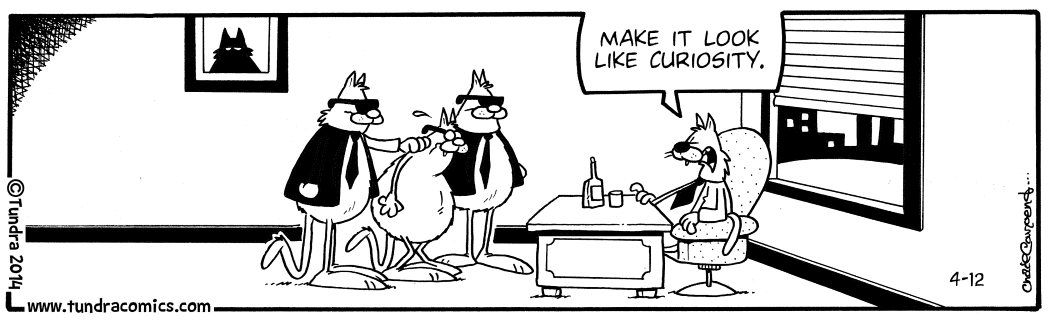
I realize I was wrong and apologized. What more can I do to make this the joyful occasion it should be? — **NOW WHAT? IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR NOW WHAT?: Now you pay the penalty for leaking the news, and gracefully accept that you will be relegated to the second tier when it comes to announcements from your son and daughter-in-law. Perhaps you can eventually get back in their good graces by respecting their wishes in the future.

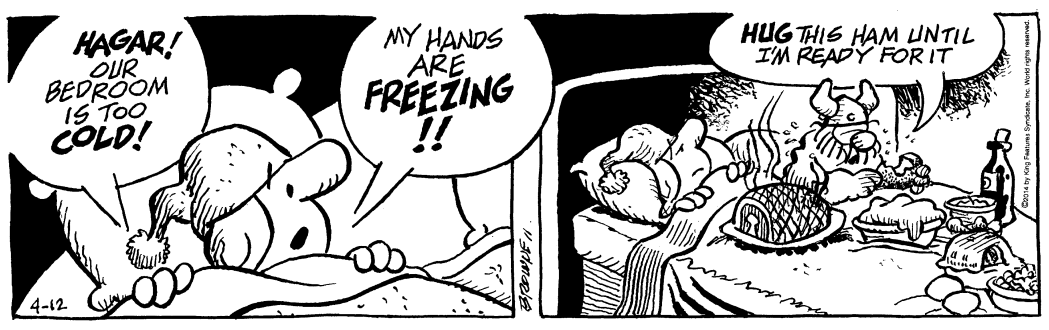
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts

Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

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	4	1				9	8	
	3		5		1		7	
		9		3		6		
		2	3	7	8	1		
		4	6	1	5	3		
		7		6		5		
	1		4		7		9	
	2	8				7	1	

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

8	5	3	4	2	9	7	1	6
1	4	6	3	7	5	2	8	9
2	9	7	8	1	6	5	4	3
3	6	5	2	8	4	1	9	7
4	8	2	1	9	7	3	6	5
9	7	1	6	5	3	8	2	4
7	3	8	9	4	1	6	5	2
5	2	4	7	6	8	9	3	1
6	1	9	5	3	2	4	7	8

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may need to come up with some new ways to show your affection, as your old ways are starting to fall short. Look to Leo for inspiration.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, a few kinks still need to be worked out, but your master plan will soon be in place. Start putting the wheels in motion and your work won't go unrecognized.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are great at creating a good time out of nothing at all. Get together with a few friends and let the good times roll. Others may envy this talent.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You have a rare opportunity to show off your skills this week, Cancer. When your talents are on display, don't worry about hogging that spotlight. Enjoy your time in the limelight.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Take some time for quiet inspiration, Leo. It is just what you need after a busy week in which your stamina was put to the test. Rest and recharge for a few days.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Tasks at work have certainly tried your patience, Virgo. Just when you are settled in, you get pulled in another direction very quickly. Save up those vacation days.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

It's time to lighten up, Libra. Throw a party, take a trip or hang out with friends. Just be sure to focus on fun and let other concerns fall by the wayside for a little while.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, do your best to get all of your ducks in a row this week. Keep distractions at bay and don't allow social engagements to take precedence over more pressing matters.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you will have to remain two steps ahead of everyone else to get a project done this week. Things are moving quite quickly now, so make every minute count.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

A challenge is on the horizon, Capricorn. But remain calm and you will handle every challenge that comes your way. Aries provides some extra help.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, some may call you stubborn, but "dedicated" might be a more appropriate term. Once your mind is set, it is hard to pull you off course, and this week is no different.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You have plenty of energy to carry you through to the weekend, Pisces. A big surprise is in store in the coming days.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 13
Carles Puyol, Athlete (36)

APRIL 14
Robert Carlyle, Actor (53)

APRIL 15
Emma Watson, Actress (23)

APRIL 16
Peter Billingsley, Actor (43)

APRIL 17
Rooney Mara, Actress (29)

APRIL 18
Jeff Dunham, Comic (52)

APRIL 19
Ashley Judd, Actress (46)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

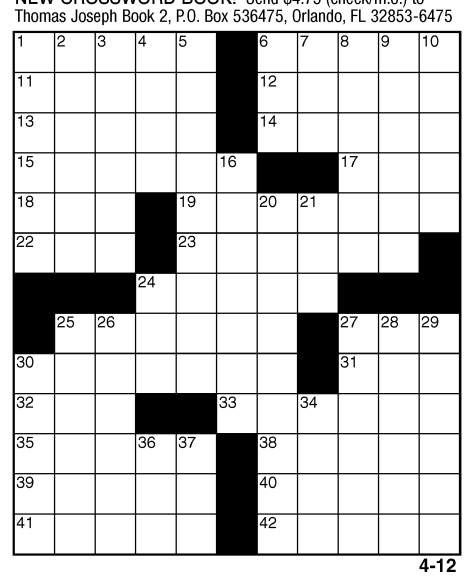
ACROSS
1 Completely wreck
6 Ready to swing
11 Sleepy colleague
12 Wake
13 Shred
14 Physical power
15 Never before seen
17 Long time
18 Horseshoe shape
19 Prepares leftovers
22 Mag. workers
23 Marshy inlets
24 Army group
25 Man in a mask
27 Truck part
30 Artist from Delft
31 Gardner of movies
32 Cut off
33 In a panic
35 Gaggle group
38 Putting to work
39 Profit
40 Gluttonous spree
41 Sea dogs
42 Raring to go

DOWN
1 Ancient Balkan nation
2 Complained bitterly
3 Orchard crop
4 Took turns
5 Exaggerated claims
6 Sandy's sound
7 Overly
8 Agency
9 Fancy ties
10 Prom crowd
16 Tires
20 Four-dimensional figure
21 Dawn goddess
24 Engine part
25 City on the Rhone
26 Trial
27 Sympathetic
28 Pay back
29 Wolverine's cousin
30 Gambling mecca
34 China setting
36 Canine command
37 High trains

F	I	L	E	■	P	I	E	T	I	N
O	V	A	L	■	I	G	N	O	R	E
R	A	N	K	■	Q	U	O	T	E	D
E	N	D	■	S	U	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	M	A	K	E	S	■	L	A	W
J	U	I	C	Y	■	S	C	A	R	E
A	N	N	E	■	■	■	O	N	E	S
I	D	E	S	T	■	S	A	D	A	T
L	O	S	■	A	T	A	L	L	■	■
■	■	■	P	R	I	G	■	I	N	A
B	E	L	I	Z	E	■	S	N	O	W
A	V	A	T	A	R	■	P	E	A	R
T	E	X	A	N	S	■	A	S	H	Y

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



4-12

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Breakfast bread
6 Happy or Grumpy
11 Relative by marriage
12 Circle spokes
13 Syrup source
14 Midterms and finals
15 Circle parts
17 Got together
18 Cloverleaf feature
22 Frontiersman Crockett
23 Brewing vessel
27 Chilled
29 Mournful music
30 Empathize
32 "Damn Yankees" role
33 Spring holiday
35 Back, on a boat
38 Bike part
39 Tremble
41 Throw away
45 Beneath
46 Port-au-Prince's nation
47 Wise saying
48 Winesap, for one

DOWN
1 Director Burton
2 "Cat — Hot Tin Roof"
3 Swiss peak
4 Spending limit in pro sports
5 Annoying fellow
6 Not naked
7 Candle material
8 First person
9 Frost
10 Balled hand
16 Mouse chaser
18 Sneaker problem
19 Wind pointer
20 Demonic
21 Tar topper
24 Sask. or Alta.
25 Lusty look
26 Eye drop
28 Curio cabinet
31 Language suffix
34 Malia's sister
35 Blue hue
36 Supply with cash
37 Unveiling cry
40 Gunpowder holder
42 Tear
43 Eur.-Amer. separator
44 Diner dessert

R	I	C	H	■	O	N	E	I	L	L
E	C	H	O	■	M	E	A	N	I	E
N	E	R	O	■	E	S	T	A	T	E
T	R	I	D	E	N	T	S	■	■	■
■	■	S	I	N	■	L	A	C	K	S
R	A	T	E	D	■	E	T	H	E	L
A	L	I	■	■	■	■	■	R	E	O
M	E	N	U	S	■	F	A	I	N	T
S	C	E	N	T	■	E	S	S	■	■
■	■	■	M	A	R	Z	I	P	A	N
B	E	W	A	R	E	■	M	I	M	E
E	R	O	D	E	S	■	O	N	E	S
E	R	N	E	S	T	■	V	E	N	T

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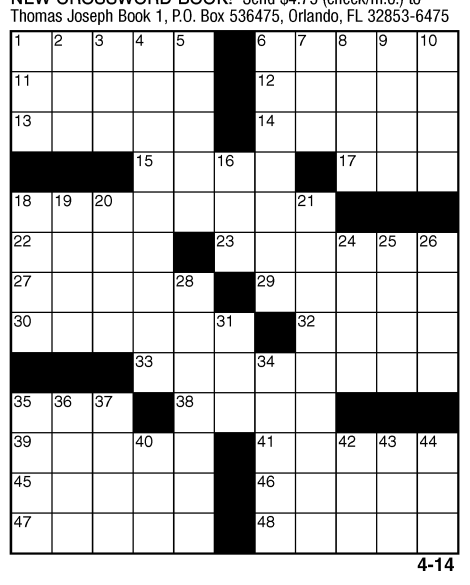

4-14

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

H YBFRBJHNK BFC HCKBUHNK PTJKUY BJ EGZJ EGFFT, EGR H WFXL CKKI CXLF H'P CBYYT CGOW. — IBRRXF XJLBUR

Previous Cryptoquote: I ALWAYS READ THE LAST PAGE OF A BOOK FIRST SO THAT IF I DIE BEFORE I FINISH I'LL KNOW HOW IT TURNED OUT. – Nora Ephron