

So many interesting things cross our desk every week that we can't help but share their stories with you.

My Buddy Pal (Greeting Cards)



Social media is all well and good, but when you want to express yourself one-on-one, from your heart to theirs, a card can mean a lot. Michael Murphy, artist and founder of the card company My Buddy Pal, knows this firsthand. In 1990, his sons presented him and his wife with a Golden Retriever puppy, a ball of fluff and energy they named Pal and adored until the day he died in 2003. Murphy and Pal spent a lot of time together and, he says, “had many one-sided conversations. I found myself wondering what he thought about.”

Murphy, who'd been making one-of-a-kind cards since he was 16, translated his curiosity about Pal's thoughts into a series of cards that perfectly captures what all dog-lovers know: dogs can be funny and charming and unbelievably sensitive to human emotions. He recently debuted a new series, which he calls “Rescue.” As the name implies, its subjects come from the shelter/rescue world, and cats and non-Pal dogs have joined the cast.

We asked Murphy to share his biggest takeaway message, and—no surprise—it concerns his customers. “I've been both surprised and touched by customers' emotional reactions; their words expressing their feelings about ‘Pal’ are like love letters. It's amazing and wonderful.” mybuddypal.com



MUDBUSTER

Just in time for springtime showers and muddy paw cleanups! The Dexas Mudbuster, an easy-to-grip tumbler with thick, soft silicone bristles inside, does the trick after romps at the park or yard. Add water to the tumbler, dip in the muddy paw, dry and repeat thrice.

No more muddy tracks. Keep one in the car and one by the door. Three sizes and colors. \$14.99 to \$24.99. Available on Amazon at amzn.to/2lgEV4M



FAMILY EXHIBIT >

Writer-photographer **Nick Bowman** spent several years capturing dogs and their people for a March gallery exhibit in Ketchikan, Alaska, titled “Family.” The photo series, posted at bowfoto.com and hosted by the Main Street Gallery, explores the relationship between Alaskans and the dogs they call family. The show's anchor image: Ketchikan police officer Devin Miller and his German Shepherd partner Booker (right).

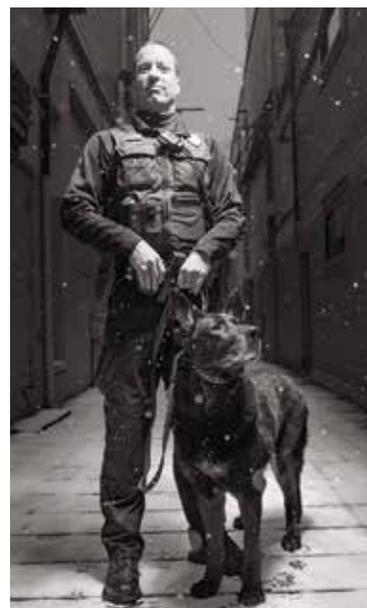
< BUMP IT OFF

A new silicone gadget with a plethora of uses, from dog grooming and de-linting clothes and furniture to a body scrubber for yourself. Easy and safe to use. \$9.99. goddessofgadgets.com



UNLEASHED

Amanda Jones' new book, *Unleashed*, captures joyous dogs in all four seasons. Dogs of all breeds and sizes are in their element, jumping, running and just generally enjoying themselves, unencumbered and untethered. This collection comes out in May, just in time to inspire your own outdoor adventure! amandajones.com/unleashed



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