

# Puppy Bones

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The sound of breaking glass shattered the morning calm. Buddy and Beauty gallantly raced into the dining room to see what had caused the commotion. Or, at least they tried to. Buddy slid on the tile floor and careened into Beauty, who then scrabbled ineffectually as she slid into the pantry. Buddy helped Beauty up. They both gingerly made their way to the dining room, carefully watching where they placed their feet. Neither puppy noticed the shadowy figure sneaking out the other door. The remains of the plastic box that held their bones littered the floor. Only one bone remained, lying innocuously on the floor.

“Hey, the box broke!” said Buddy. The box normally held three bones; one for Buddy, one for Beauty, and one for Bandit. The clasp that used to hold it shut had broken off months ago. A piece of string kept the lid closed, or used to. The string was now conspicuously missing.

“What happened?” asked Bandit, as he casually strolled in.

“Someone broke into our box,” replied Beauty, “and two of the bones are missing.”

“Actually, it was only one bone. Bandit had his this morning, remember?” said Buddy.

“Oh, I remember now. How could I forget? You chewed on that bone like you hadn’t had one in a hundred years, Bandit,” said Beauty. “Who could possibly do such a thing?”

“Maybe Bandit did it,” joked Buddy.

“I think we should decide what to do with the remaining bone,” Bandit quickly interjected. “After all, there’s no point in letting a perfectly fine bone go to waste. Who has gone the longest without a bone?”

“I have,” answered Buddy.

“Wait a minute! I had mine only a day after you had yours, Buddy, and mine was much smaller!” said Beauty.

“I think Buddy should have it. It’s only natural that you would have the smaller bone because you’re so scrawny. At least, that’s what Buddy told me yesterday,” said Bandit.

“But I never...” Buddy tried to say, but was overridden by Beauty, who angrily said to Buddy:

“How can I help but be seen as scrawny when I’m standing next to someone who’s three times as large as I am, and two-thirds of that is his head!” The conversation quickly went downhill from there, rapidly turning into a scuffle.

Eventually, the two lay in a panting heap, covered in scratches and bite marks. They dazedly looked around, hardly aware of their surroundings.

“Aren’t we a sorry sight...” purred an unseen voice. A kitten slipped out from under the

Fighting dogs

table cloth, where she had been napping.

“Hi, Fluffy, we didn’t see you there,” said Beauty.

“Of course you didn’t. I was *trying* to get some sleep, when all of a sudden boxes were smashing and puppies were brawling. Can’t you dogs ever learn to play quietly?”

“We’re sorry,” said Beauty.

“What do you mean ‘we’? I didn’t do anything wrong!” said Buddy.

“Of course you did? This whole mess is your fault!” replied Beauty. Another fight would have quickly ensued, if not for the timely intervention of Fluffy.

“Both of you are to blame! Beauty, did you ever stop to think that Bandit was the one who gave that remark about you being scrawny and that Buddy would never say something like that? Buddy, did you ever stop to think that Beauty responded the way she did because she thought you had insulted her? If either of you had stopped for a moment to think rationally and look at things from each other’s points of view, this whole mess never would have happened!” Buddy and Beauty shamefacedly looked at each other in mute apology.

“On top of that, while you two were fighting, Bandit stole the last bone from the box that he broke and is getting away. Assuming you two have come to your senses, we might be able to find Bandit and get the bone back, if we hurry. Once we have retrieved it, we can figure out a better way to fairly divide the bones.”

Bandit w/ bone

Fluffy, the female sage-like kitten, suggests that Buddy and Beauty go after Bandit. What should they do? Should they...

Ignore her advice? (Continue reading)

OR

Stop arguing and take a moment to hear Fluffy out? (Page #8)

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“You’re a kitten,” sneered Buddy.

“Yes, and you’re a pup,” replied Fluffy calmly.

“Well, we don’t take advice from lazybones,” scorned Beauty in a mocking voice.

Fluffy, losing her temper, hissed at the comment. All she wanted to do was help the two pups get their bone back, but instead she was wasting her time. She wasn’t just going to walk away and act like nothing happened; she was going to make the puppies pay for their mistake.

“That’s it!” yelled Fluffy.

Both of the pups were startled by her reaction. Before they could react, they saw Fluffy charging at them. They stumbled as they were knocked over on their backs, and when they managed to scramble themselves to their paws, Beauty and Buddy saw the little kitten located in front of them, ready to deal out another punch. All three pets started fighting. A few seconds later, Bandit reentered the room, holding the bone between his jaws. He dropped the bone on the floor, as he could not believe his own eyes.

“Will you stop that!?” barked Bandit.

Both Fluffy and the pups stopped fighting and looked up, wondering who had just shouted. They saw Bandit with the bone right in front of him.

“Hi,” said Bandit cautiously, scared of what they were going to say to him.

“Hey,” responded Beauty, with a somewhat ireful tone. “What’s up?”

“Well, I was hoping if you would... maybe... forgive me for stealing the bone,” begged Bandit guiltily. “Perhaps we could all play together?”

At that thought, Beauty and Buddy happily leaped into the air, and in unison said, “Of course we forgive you! Let’s all play together.”

Fluffy silently crept away, leaving the puppies joyfully playing on their own.

END

“Why should we listen to you?” Buddy sneered.

“Yeah, why should we listen to you?” Beauty repeated.

“You don’t have to, of course, but I have a way to solve this so that everyone can be happy,” Fluffy answered.

“Yeah? What’s that?” Buddy said with doubt in his voice.

“Compromise with Bandit,” Fluffy stated simply.

“Kum-pri-meese?” Beauty said, going cross-eyed as she tried to say the foreign word.

“Compromise. It’s when everyone gets a little bit of what he or she wants,” Fluffy explained.

“How could everyone here get what they want, when all we want is the bone and only one of us can have it?” Beauty asked.

“Compromise also involves everyone giving up something. What if you all shared the

Fluffy



bone or split up the time each of you guys get to play with it?”

Buddy and Beauty thought about that.

“Let’s go over and talk to Bandit,” Fluffy said.

The three animals found Bandit chewing the bone. When he looked up and saw who was approaching, he stopped playing and his eyes gradually widened, like sink holes expanding as the ground collapses.

“Now, let’s all talk this whole bone business out and get on with our day,” Fluffy said.

Fluffy says Buddy and Beauty should try to talk things out with Bandit. What should they do? Should they...

Take the bone from Bandit by force? (Continue reading)

OR

Peacefully talk with Bandit? (Page #13)

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“Give us the bone, Bandit,” demanded Buddy.

“This bone is mine now.” Bandit tucked the bone behind his paws, protecting it.

“No, it’s ours,” said Beauty, taking a step toward Bandit. “Now give it to us!”

Bandit did not give in, however. Buddy and Beauty were getting closer and closer. Then, Beauty snatched the bone from Bandit.

Dog fight Two

“Hey! Give that back!” growled Bandit, pawing at the bone, attempting to take it from Beauty. However, he ended up knocking it away, and the bone skidded across the floor. The three puppies all dashed toward it. Bandit gripped the bone with his jaws, but so did Buddy and Beauty. They struggled, and Bandit gave one strong tug, causing Beauty and Buddy to let go. However, the bone flew out of Bandit’s jaws, too, and it slammed into the wall.

*CRACK!!*

The bone shattered into pieces. “No!” they all cried. All three puppies frowned and whimpered. They stared at the remains of the bone they had foolishly fought over. Then, Bandit looked up at Buddy and Beauty and apologized.

“I’m sorry,” he said. “I shouldn’t have taken the bone and caused you guys to fight.”

Destroyed bone

“It’s all right,” replied Buddy. “We shouldn’t have tried to take it back from you like that.”

“Let’s never act like this again,” said Beauty. “Nothing good comes from fighting, it seems.”

The three puppies all nodded. They scavenged together for a new bone. When they found one, they remembered their lesson and refrained from fighting over it. Though each puppy wanted the bone; Buddy, Beauty, and Bandit learned to share it so that everyone could be happy.

END

“Bandit, can we please have the bone back?” Buddy asked.

“This bone is mine now.” Bandit clutched the bone between his paws.

“But it was ours first,” stated Beauty. “You stole it from us.”

“Bandit, we’re not mad at you. We just want our bone back,” said Buddy.

Bandit stepped back a bit, lowering his head. He started to feel guilty. “I’ll give this back to you,” he responded in a hushed, disheartened tone as he pushed the bone toward Buddy and Beauty. Bandit turned away, ready to leave, but then Buddy spoke up.

“Do you want to share it with us?” Buddy asked.

Bandit looked at Buddy and Beauty, surprised. He stared at them for a few moments and then gleefully smiled at them. Buddy and Beauty smiled back.

Happy ending

Accepting their invitation of friendship, Bandit laughed alongside his new companions as the three puppies all shared the remaining bone. Bandit wished to have friends, and he finally found some. Even though he had made a mistake, Buddy and Beauty forgave him; and because of their mercy, the three puppies became close friends, enjoying their time together. The puppies learned to compromise, and because of it they lived happily ever after.

END