

## = The Canine Mutiny =

" The Canine Mutiny " is the twentieth episode of The Simpsons ' eighth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 13 , 1997 . It was written by Ron Hauge and directed by Dominic Polcino . Bart applies for a credit card and goes on a spending spree when it arrives , including an expensive trained dog called ' Laddie ' . It guest stars voice actor Frank Welker as Laddie , a parody of Lassie . The episode 's title references the novel The Caine Mutiny .

## = = Plot = =

When Bart complains he never gets any mail , Marge gives him the family 's junk mail . One piece contains a credit card application , which Bart fills out under the name of his dog Santa 's Little Helper , whom he claims to have the occupation " butt doctor " . The company misreads the name as " Santos L. Halper " , and the credit card application is approved . Before long , Bart receives a credit card . Bart goes on a shopping spree , buying the family some very expensive gifts from a mail order catalog : Vancouver smoked salmon and a radio @-@ frying pan for Marge , a golf shirt with corporate logo for Homer , " Trucker 's Choice Stay @-@ Alert Capsules " for Lisa and many things for himself . The item that Bart anticipates the most is a finely @-@ bred , pre @-@ trained collie . Not letting its US \$ 1 @,@ 200 purchase price stand in the way , Bart promptly orders one . Upon its arrival Bart learns the dog 's name is Laddie , who has been trained to perform a wide variety of tasks . The rest of the family fall in love with the new dog , while Santa 's Little Helper goes unnoticed .

Bart fails to pay off " Santos L. Halper 's " credit card bill , and it is not long before he gets a call from a debt collection agency demanding payment . When the calls and collection letters persist , Bart enlists Laddie to help him bury his ill @-@ gotten credit card . Later , repo men arrive to take back all of the things Bart has purchased . Lisa demands an explanation , and Bart is forced to admit the truth . When a reposessor demands the \$ 1 @,@ 200 collie be returned , Bart identifies Santa 's Little Helper as the dog he purchased . The greyhound is herded into the truck and Bart sadly watches as it drives away . Noticing that Santa 's Little Helper is gone , the family begins to bond with Laddie , except for Bart , who fears for Santa 's Little Helper 's fate . When an exhausted Bart gives Laddie yet another walk , the collie saves the life of Baby Gerald . At the ceremony honoring Laddie 's heroism , Chief Wiggum decides that Laddie would make the perfect police dog . Bart gives him to the Springfield police force and is forced to explain why the family now has no dog at all , while sobbing . Homer instructs Bart to do whatever it takes to get Santa 's Little Helper back and he goes hunting around the town , trying to find his old pal . Bart eventually learns from Reverend Lovejoy that the dog was given to a parishioner named Mr. Mitchell .

Bart visits Mr. Mitchell , who is blind and lonely , and asks for his dog back , but when he sees how the man and Santa 's Little Helper have bonded , he grows heartsick and leaves . Still determined to get his dog back , Bart makes a late @-@ night visit to Mr. Mitchell 's home in hopes of retrieving Santa 's Little Helper . The pair are reunited , but Bart traps himself in a closet . Mr. Mitchell calls the police and demands that Bart be charged with burglary , but Bart explains that Santa 's Little Helper was his dog and that he wants him back . To solve the problem , Bart and Mitchell let Santa 's Little Helper decide where he wants to go , with him choosing Bart. Chief Wiggum arrives with Laddie , who immediately sniffs out a bag of marijuana in Mr. Mitchell 's pocket . Bart and Santa 's Little Helper head home , leaving the police to " finish up " with Mitchell , as more officers arrive with women and beer .

## = = Production = =

The episode uses the full opening sequence because the story came out short . Despite this , a large sequence was cut from the middle of the episode , with half of the episode having to be re @-@ written after the animatic had been finished . The main plot of the episode came from an original idea that the family would be issued a credit card in the name " Hobart Simpson " and that

Bart would use that . An original side @-@ story was that Lisa would become addicted to the " Trucker 's Choice " pep pills . Originally , instead of going to the dog park , the family took Laddie to a waterfall and he performed a series of dives , but it was scrapped as it had already been proven that Laddie was a form of " superdog " . Likewise , Laddie rescuing Baby Gerald was originally a complicated rescue scene , but was cut into showing the aftermath .

Laddie was designed to resemble a real dog . The catalog Bart uses is a combination of the Lillian Vernon catalog and The Sharper Image . The opening stemmed from the fact that the show had not had a sequence where the family received mail , and the writers wanted to create a joke about the different types of mail each of the family get . After Bart 's " dog burning " fantasy , when he hears a ship 's horn in the distance , there was originally going to be a faint cry of " more dogs " , but it was deemed that it took the joke too far . Hank Azaria ad @-@ libbed the entire sequence during the credits in which Chief Wiggum and Lou sing along to " Jammin ' " .

= = Cultural references = =

The title is a reference to the novel and film The Caine Mutiny . The dog " Laddie " is a play on Lassie , in terms of name , appearance and uncanny intelligence . Marge listens to the song " You Really Got Me " by The Kinks played on the frying pan radio . At the end of the episode , the song " Jamming " by Bob Marley is played . The design of the " Repo Depot " is based very loosely on the repossession agency from Repo Man . The address of Mr. Mitchell 's house 57 Mt . Auburn Street is one of addresses of the Harvard Lampoon . Mr. Mitchell having a dead parrot that he believes to still be alive is a reference to the " Dead Parrot " Monty Python sketch .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " The Canine Mutiny " finished 43rd in ratings for the week of April 7 ? 13 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 8 @.@ 1 , equivalent to approximately 7 @.@ 9 million viewing households . It was the fourth highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The X @-@ Files , King of the Hill , and Beverly Hills , 90210 .

The episode 's ending with Chief Wiggum and Lou singing along to " Jamming ' " by Bob Marley is often cited as one of the best endings in the history of the show . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , called it " A sweet episode " . Homer 's line " There , there , shut up boy " is one of Josh Weinstein 's favorites .