

= Dog Gone =

" Dog Gone " is the eighth episode of the eighth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on November 29 , 2009 . The episode features Brian , the family pet , attempting to prove that a dog 's life is just as important as that of a human 's , after he accidentally kills another dog with no consequences . Meanwhile , the Griffin family hires Consuela , a stereotypical Hispanic woman , as the household maid , which they each end up regretting once she takes advantage of the family 's home .

First announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , the episode was written by series showrunner Steve Callaghan and directed by Julius Wu . It received high praise from critics for its storyline and many cultural references , in addition to receiving some criticism from PETA . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 8 @.@ 48 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Chris Matthews , Nathan Gunn , Eddie Sotelo , Fred Tatasciore and Kel MacFarlane , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " Dog Gone " was released on DVD along with seven other episodes from the season on June 15 , 2010 .

= = Plot = =

After much anticipation , Brian receives an invitation to an award ceremony celebrating his novel , Faster Than the Speed of Love , by the Rhode Island Society for Special Literary Excellence . Convinced he is a great writer , Brian attempts to gain the family 's interest but fails to do so . Once he arrives at the " award ceremony " however , he discovers that he has misunderstood the meaning of the word " special " , prompting him to drown his sorrows at the local bar and realize that he 's not a writer at all , but a big fat joke . He drives home drunk that night and accidentally runs over and kills a dog . He secretly buries the dead dog 's body outside the Griffins ' home and tries to keep quiet about it . Stewie , having witnessed his deed , begins to toy with Brian 's guilt , eventually driving him to a state where he decides to confess to " murder " . However , when he confesses to Joe and the Griffin family , they all laugh , saying that no one cares if a dog or any other animal is killed , especially by another animal .

Outraged , Brian starts a support group , and decides to call it " The Quahog Animal Equal Rights League , " to convince the town that the lives of animals should be of equal value to humans ' . As the town citizens learn more about it , however , none of them are keen on changing their lifestyles if it means no processed meats and medical research on animals , and even become interested in how dogs taste after Brian mentions they are eaten in some cultures . Refusing to listen any further , they chase after Brian in an attempt to eat him .

Brian realizes that if no one cares about the lives of animals , then he is worthless to the Griffin family and everyone else . Stewie finds Brian crying in the bathtub , and , seeing how upset Brian is and feeling sorry for him , Stewie successfully fakes his death by putting his collar (which Brian hadn 't been wearing) on a stray and killing it in a liquor store fire . The Griffins are devastated upon learning about Brian 's supposed death , and realize how close a friend he was to them . Seeing this , Stewie rushes upstairs to show Brian how much the Griffins still care about him , regardless of his species . Brian then realizes his life does have a purpose and thanks Stewie for helping him , and decides to remain hidden to let the Griffins grieve a little longer .

Meanwhile , Quagmire accidentally knocks over a carton of Kool @-@ Aid mix on the kitchen floor of the Griffin 's house and leaves Peter to take the blame . Frustrated with having to clean Peter 's messes , Lois hires a Hispanic maid named Consuela to clean their house . But Consuela quickly proves to be very stubborn , refusing to leave after her work hours and sleeping at the Griffins ' house overnight , much to Peter and Lois ' annoyance . They try to fire her and even bribe her to leave , but she still refuses (though she takes the money they offer her anyway) . In a last @-@ ditch attempt , Peter finally gets rid of her by tricking her into inhaling chloroform on a handkerchief , and leaves her in a basket on Joe 's front porch .

At the end , Peter lets us know that everyone at Family Guy respects all living beings and assures

the viewers that no animals were harmed in the making of the episode , but they did hurt the feelings of an Italian opera singer by prematurely dropping the curtain on his performance .

= = Production and development = =

First announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in San Diego , California on July 25 , 2009 , by future showrunner Steve Callaghan , the episode was directed by series regular , and former King of the Hill and The Oblongs director , Julius Wu , and written by Callaghan before the conclusion of the eighth production season . The episode saw the reintroduction of the recurring character Consuela , a Hispanic maid whose first appearance was in the sixth season episode " Believe It or Not , Joe 's Walking on Air " . The character is voiced by main cast member Mike Henry .

" Dog Gone " , along with seven other episodes from Family Guy 's eighth season , was released on a three @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on June 15 , 2010 . The sets included brief audio commentaries by Seth MacFarlane and various crew and cast members for several episodes , a collection of deleted scenes , a special mini @-@ feature which discussed the process behind animating " Road to the Multiverse " , and a mini @-@ feature entitled Family Guy Karaoke .

In addition to the regular cast , anchor and political commentator Chris Matthews , voice actor Fred Tatasciore , opera singer Nathan Gunn , radio personality Eddie Sotelo and Kel MacFarlane , webmaster of the Seth MacFarlane fan site , guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Ralph Garman , writer John Viener , writer Mark Hentemann , actress Alex Breckenridge , writer Alec Sulkin and writer Danny Smith also made minor appearances .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode , Stewie is seen going through Brian 's internet history , which includes searches about himself on the internet search engine Google . Later , after going to the bar to drink , Brian talks to Bill , the father from The Family Circus syndicated comic strip . After Bill tells him he should have tried harder on writing his book , Brian responds by yelling that all Bill does is " judge " other people , and demands for him to go home and " fuck [his] wife in the face " , to which Bill agrees . This is also later recognized by Peter the next day , when he is seen reading the funnies , and murmurs to himself , " this is a very shocking Family Circus . "

News anchor and political commentator Chris Matthews ' show entitled Hardball with Chris Matthews is referenced by Stewie when he suggests Brian is getting a big head , with the guest , United States Senator Harry Reid , then appearing on Matthews ' forehead , suggesting Matthews is self @-@ centered . After Reid continues to interrupt him , however , Matthews cuts to actor Kurtwood Smith , in which Matthews appears on Smith 's forehead instead .

Once Consuela is hired as the family maid , she first begins to annoy Peter by listening to stereotypical Latin music played loudly on a portable radio , in which the singer repeats the Spanish phrase " ¡ Muchos horn @-@ os ! " which literally translates to " many ovens " but within the context of the show is actually meant to be Spanglish for " many horns . " In Consuela 's final appearance in the episode , she is seen watching a commercial , which parodies local commercials urging viewers to hire a lawyer if they are in a car accident .

In an attempt to try to prove that an animal has the same rights as humans , Brian starts an advocacy group , and is suggested by Lois to join PETA , but she is unable to enunciate the word differently from how she pronounces " Peter , " leading her husband to become confused . The end of the gag has Chris stating his belief that Betty White is a member of the organization , with his wording prompting Peter to yell , " That doesn 't even make sense ! " Brian goes on to create a public service announcement regarding animal rights , one of which involves a dog being " tortured " by having to listen to the radio show All Things Considered on National Public Radio , which the dog 's owner leaves on for him before leaving the house .

= = Reception = =

In an improvement over the previous four episodes , the episode was viewed in 8 @. @ 48 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings , despite airing simultaneously with Sunday Night Football , the television movie A Dog Named Christmas on CBS and Desperate Housewives on ABC . The episode also acquired a 4 @. @ 4 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating The Simpsons , The Cleveland Show and American Dad ! , but was ultimately edged out slightly by The Simpsons in total viewership .

Reviews of the episode were highly positive , citing the Brian and Stewie storyline as a " solid attempt to tell a good story , " and the Consuela scenes as " terrific . " Ahsan Haque of IGN also noted that " the writers deserved some credit " for the episode , saying that , in comparison to past episodes the episode did not " come across as a haphazardly assembled string of [random] jokes . " Jason Hughes of TV Squad also found the Consuela scenes to be " hilarious , " but found the final scene to be " strangely [...] uncomfortable , " expecting Meg to be pushed out of the family hug . Todd VanDerWerff of the The A.V. Club praised the handling of Brian 's character in the episode , and called the Peter and PETA gag " pretty cheap , but quite funny , " giving the episode a B rating overall .

In February 2010 , for " rais [ing] public awareness of animal issues " , " Dog Gone " won a Genesis Award for television comedy , winning over South Park episode ' Whale Whores " and Monk episode " Mr. Monk and the Dog " . In a post on PETA 's official blog , Amanda Schinke , however , was highly critical of the episode for its " myriad of violent deaths of cartoon dogs . " In addition , she called for the show to " hire [writers] who can generate material that doesn 't make us roll our eyes . "