

## Patty has a nose for Frisbees



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Patty loves garage sales.

And she has her own special style of shopping for bargains: aggressive but polite; nosy but respectful. She's on a mission and knows what she wants, often sticking her long schnoz into boxes searching for her favorite thing.

"She's looking for a Frisbee. And she almost always finds one in a box or on a table. She grabs it and then looks for someone - anyone - who'll throw it for her," says owner May Beth Hsieh Williamson.

Patty is a Queensland heeler or Australian cattle dog. She and Williamson, her "mom," go to garage sales every Saturday around their Ahwatukee home looking for bargains. They look mostly for the plastic flying discs because Patty is freaky for Frisbees.

They already have a large supply, but they need more because Patty is rough on them, thanks to the way she totes them around. She folds a Frisbee in half, picks it up with her mouth then walks around with it flapping from her large jaws.

"It's comical because it looks like she's got huge lips," Williamson says. "And then usually after a few minutes in her chops, a Frisbee is demolished."

Although Patty loves the discs, she seems to enjoy the hunt for them just as much.

When the big day rolls around and May Beth puts change in her pocket and stocks up on water and doggie treats, Patty knows it's time to go garage saling. The nearly 3-year-old dog is the first to jump into Mom's Jeep and the first to get out when she sniffs a sale.

"When we stop, she grabs a Frisbee from the Jeep (they have dozens everywhere, at home and in their vehicles) and bolts. And she starts her big hunt going through the boxes and stuff," Williamson says.

If Patty doesn't find another Frisbee to add to her collection, the people holding the sale usually come through.

"They'll go in the house, get one, bring it out and Patty snatches it right out of their hand," Williamson says.

A quarter is the going price for a Frisbee at a garage sale in the Lakewood area of Ahwatukee's south side. Williamson says it's usually on the house after the sellers see Patty's repertoire of tricks.

"She's very entertaining, and everyone just loves her. She can play dead, give a high-five with her paw and a lot of other tricks," Williamson says.

Williamson taught Patty the tricks thanks to a book on dog tricks, which she bought at a garage sale for 50 cents.

It seems the pairing between Patty and Williamson was meant to be. When Patty was just a pup, she had been adopted twice and returned to the owners. Then along came Williamson. She was talked into taking Patty for just a day and was assured she could return her if it didn't work out.

"After 24 hours I fell in love. She was just this little cute, round cuddly thing. And she would kiss you all over ... and grunt. I just love her," Williamson says.

That was 2 1/2 years ago. And the rest, as they say, is history. Patty has found a home and May Beth has found a perfect garage saling partner.

**Lynda Hammond runs the [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) Web site, where you can list and look for garage sales online and read past columns. Reach her at [lynda@garagesalegal.com](mailto:lynda@garagesalegal.com). She also appears on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.**