

These friends are sales hounds

Oct. 20, 2006 12:00 AM

Patty is a star.



Oh, sure, she has always been popular - adored, cuddled and squeezed - but she has moved up a few notches in popularity at garage sales since her first column ran here a few weeks ago in *The Republic*.

"People everywhere immediately recognize her. They say, 'Hey, that dog is famous' and 'I want an autograph or a paw-o-graph,' " May Beth Hsieh Williamson said with a laugh. You remember Patty. She's the 3-year-old Queensland Heeler who loves garage sales and hits as many as she can every Saturday in Ahwatukee with owner May Beth. They look for just about anything that catches their eye but tops on the shopping list for Patty is her favorite toy, the Frisbee.

I love dogs and as you know I love garage sales so I just had to write a column on Patty. So, garage sale - and Patty - lovers read that first story about her garage sale adventures and kicked into action. Several folks began gathering as many Frisbees they could find to add to Patty's collection. It seems May Beth can't go anywhere without someone recognizing them.

Take for instance Kathy Heiberger, 42, and her 6-year-old daughter, Kelly. They would know that cute face anywhere. They see each other at garage sales and now, of course, they have seen Patty in the newspaper.

"When I saw Patty in (the column) I was really excited. I said, 'Look who we know in the paper,' " Kathy said.

The Heiberger's got to know Patty and May Beth because they garage sale each week in the same areas of Ahwatukee. But on this day they crossed paths at the grocery store.

"I told May Beth that I saw her in the paper and that we had a whole bunch of Frisbees for Patty."

Kathy had been keeping the Frisbees in the trunk of her car knowing she would soon be running into them. And it just so happened, Patty was in May Beth's car, too.

So, they put their grocery shopping on hold, went out to the parking lot and got the star out of the car. And Patty did what she always does when she gets a new Frisbee. She promptly put it in her mouth, ran around with it, then handed it off to May Beth to throw for her. The challenge was getting Patty to stop for a moment and pose for a picture with Kathy, Kelly and the Frisbees.

Kathy and Kelly are also quite enthusiastic about garage sales and the gems they find at bargain prices.

Kelly normally wakes mom up to prepare for the big day of garage saling, even if she does get a bit confused on what day it is.

"Well, sometimes she gets up at the crack of dawn and says, 'Mom, it's time to go to garage sales.' But I

have to tell her to go back to bed because it's only Thursday. So, she's always ready to garage sale no matter what day it is."

Ah, yes, a Garage Sale Gal in the making!

Lynda Hammond runs the www.GarageSaleGal.com Web site where you can list and look for garage sales on-line and read past columns. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.