

Garage Sale Gal **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



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Garage saling with a best friend ***By Lynda Hammond***

It's early Saturday morning and Dave Potter's alarm is going off. His 10-year-old, tiny Pomeranian is jumping and running excitedly around the house. "That means it's time for me to get out of bed and go garage saling. And he won't let me leave without him," Dave Potter says.

Dave and Tas are inseparable.

"I pretty much have to watch where I walk or I'll trip over him. He's always right there at my feet."

Tas—short for Tasmanian devil— and Dave, 52, are partners in search of unique finds at garage sales. Dave wasn't looking for a dog at the time but Tas was looking for a home.

Their friendship began 2 years ago when Dave went to a garage sale in Mesa. "He started jumping on me and was really friendly. The owner asked if I wanted him." Dave was skeptical. "He wasn't exactly the kind of dog I wanted to be seen with...a little too froufrou." But when the owner told him the little dog was headed for the pound the next day, Dave relented and took him home.

He already had 3 large dogs at home so, he wasn't sure just how he was going to explain Tas to his wife. "She told me to never bring home anything I had to feed," he laughs. But Tas fits into the family nicely. And since that first meeting, Dave's never been to a garage sale without Tas. Every Saturday at the crack of dawn they're out the door searching for unique treasures. "It's fun finding bargains. You can get just about anything you need out there and for great prices."

Since I'm the 'Garage Sale Gal' I have to do my homework. So, I'm always going to garage sales too and I often run into Dave. But I didn't find out about little Tas until they came to one of *my* sales. I was doing a bustling business when they pulled up. Dave left Tas in the car while he perused the items for sale—that way Tas could act as a guard dog for the gems Dave finds! I saw Tas peek his little, furry head up to the window and that's when I got a chance to meet Dave's partner. They make an unlikely but sweet team. He's big and burly and she's small and delicate.

Dave's been hitting garage sales every weekend for the last 35 years. He started his hobby while attending Coronado High School in Scottsdale. He's a painter and a sculptor, and often finds his supplies at garage sales such as brushes and paint. "People try (painting) once and that's it. Then

they don't need or want the supplies anymore. So they put it out there for a buck even though they paid about \$40 for it. It's been a long time since I've bought supplies at a store."

Of course, his favorite garage sale find is Tas. He sits quietly in the passenger seat of the pick-up truck while Dave drives around looking for bargains. Dave says he was getting a bit tired of going to sales by himself. "Nobody else would go with me but Tas loves it. He's fun to take along and the kids love him.

By the way, Dave got his best friend at a garage sale lover's *favorite* price: Free! To this day, Dave says he's glad this is one treasure that didn't get away. "He's my favorite garage sale find..most memorable anyway." How could you forget a face like that?

MY FAVORITE FIND

Dave Potter found his favorite find at a garage sale in Mesa 2 years ago. Tas is an 8 lb. Pomeranian who loves going to garage sales with Dave every weekend. Tas didn't mix well with the previous owner's children, so Tas was headed to the pound. But Dave came to the rescue just in time!



Dave Potter and his 10-year-old Pomeranian Tas go to garage sales together every weekend. Tas sits in the passenger seat enjoying the ride and the scenery.

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it

with us. Send us your picture. Tell us a little bit about it. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who runs the website www.GarageSaleGal.com where you can list and look for garage sales on-line. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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