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over fourlegged friends and soon. we were surrounded by all creatures great and small. By Javne Walker.

s I finished off a blow-dry, one of my regulars came in Lathrough the door and gave me a smile.

'Hey, Mike, I'm just with a client, be with you in a minute,' I joked.

I worked at a dog groomers, so my four-legged clientele didn't mind if I had a chat.

Mike was one of my favourite customers. We'd always chat about our love of animals, especially his dog Brodie, and I couldn't help but feel a spark whenever he came in.

Finally, Mike asked me on a date and of course, we talked non-stop about our pets – Brodie and my two dogs and cat.

Mike worked in a highpowered job as a business account manager but wanted a slower pace of life.

'I've always loved animals.' he said, 'maybe I could find a job where I work with them.'

I wanted a change of direction myself so after we'd been together a few years, we looked into different options.

We booked in for an

interview with We Love Pets,

daycare services all over the

But the day after our chat,

UK, to find out more about

what it would involve.

who run dog walking and

I replied.

'How about becoming dog walkers?' Mike said. 'It sounds perfect for us,'

animals.

Just a few weeks later, we had a frantic phone call from

'It's our wedding in a few

'Of course,' I replied calmly. 'I'll be right over.'

couple's house and staved with the dog during their nuptials.

sadly, passed away two days later.

'I know,' he replied, giving me a hug.

Before long, we had lots of owners coming to us for help with their pets, and even asking if we could help to find them new homes.

So we ended up taking in

him properly. He was our first

'We'll miss you, love,' I said, as we

gave him to his

new owners but

we knew he was

While I'm helping pets in need, Mike has a knack for spotting and saving wild animals too.

The Look of Love by Dusty

Us

He's helped rescue deer from traffic and fences and even nearly got in trouble with the police once, after he blocked both lanes of traffic to help a family of ducks cross the road.

in good hands. After Sky, we was an animal lover too,' helped rehome Gizmo, a scruffy me what had happened. Labradoodle, but

helping someone out of a

Since we set up our animal house nearly 10 years ago, we've helped hundreds of animals each month, through

We still keep in touch with a lot of the pets we've helped rehome and they still feel like 'He just needs lots

so we get to see her often

and take her for walks. At the moment, we share

our home with Shep, Blue, four corgis and one cat, but we still often have special guests. We can't say no to an animal in need.

There's never a dull day for us but we wouldn't change it for the world. Mike and I flocked together because of our love for animals and

• To find out more, visit

OUESTION The answer to each question can be found in the box at the bottom. Cross them off as you go.

- 1 Café Main Street is a business in which TV soap?
- 2 What name is given to a baby bat?
- 3 Madonna appeared in, and provided the theme for, which James Bond film?
- In Egyptian mythology, what is the name of the god of mummification and protector of tombs, typically represented as having a jackal's head?
- 5 Traditionally, on which milestone birthday would you be given the 'key to the door'?
- 6 In how many of the movies in the Beverly Hills Cop film franchise has Eddie Murphy played Detective Axel Foley?
- 7 Professor Brian Cox was once a member of D:Ream, a band best known for which '90s no 1?
- 8 What type of sauce is drizzled over the dessert Pears Belle Helene?
- 9 In which century was the Eiffel Tower built?
- 10 What is the Spanish word for 'Spanish'?
- 11 Paul Rudd, Meryl Streep and Melissa McCarthy are among the guest stars who've joined regulars Selena Gomez, Martin Short and Steve Martin in which hit comedy-crime show, now into its fourth season?
- **12** How many points are there on the Star of David?
- 13 Hass is a variety of which fruit?
- **14** Who created the character Long John Silver?
- **15** Which English city was known by the Romans as Aquae Sulis?
- **16** How is the US rapper and entrepreneur Shawn Carter professionally known?
- 17 On a standard golf course, which hole is the last to be played?
- 18 What word connects down, fast, title, suit?
- 19 Boursin is a brand of which foodstuff?
- 20 True Love Ways, Raining in My Heart and Peggy Sue are all songs by which '50s music star?

★ TRACK ★ CHOCOLATE **★ ESPANOI ★ DIE ANOTHER**

★ FOUR DAY

BUILDING

★ NINETEENTH

★ EMMERDALE

★ JAY-Z

★ ONLY MURDERS ★ BATH IN THE **★ 21**

★ BUDDY HOLLY

***** ANUBIS **★ CALIFORNIA**

★ CHEESE

BETTER **★ PUP**

★ AVOCADO

★ SIX

★ EIGHTEENTH

★ ROBERT LOUIS

STEVENSON

*** THINGS CAN**

ONLY GET

FINISHED? One of the answers will be left over and this is the prize one. Write this answer on the entry coupon, enter online, phone or text. See page 57. we got more than we bargained for.

'We were so impressed with you both, we wondered if you'd like to run your own franchise in the area?' Io, the founder, asked over the phone.

We looked at each other with wide eyes.

'We'll do it!' Mike replied. It was a no-brainer, so we underwent training to set up our own branch in Didcot. Oxfordshire.

We were dealing with all sorts, from enquiries to sorting out rotas for dog walkers to horse feeders.

It was much more full-on than what we'd had in mind and it wasn't too long before we got hands-on with the

a local woman.

days, but one of our dogs is so ill,' she cried. 'Would

someone be able to sit in with him in case anything happens to him, so he's not alone?'

HOUSE

I made my way to the

Thankfully, he was fine on their wedding day but

'You can't help but get attached.' I said to Mike.

Sky, a little terrier whose elderly owners were no longer able to look after

foster pet and a

goodbye.

it became harder and harder

to part ways with the furry

Shep the Border collie

with a dislocated shoulder

but when the vet mentioned

putting him down, I gasped

There was no way I was

of TLC.' I said.

health but he

the family.

flapping her wings, we were

experienced in dealing with

She'd chatter away and

the microwave. She loved

parrots and she fitted right in.

cheekily trick us by imitating

karaoke too and would sing

an African grey parrot,

taken right away.

arrived on our doorstep

Thankfully, Mike is

became one of

It took time to

nurse him back to

Then when Blue,

letting that happen.

came to us in a very bad way

friends we fostered.

in horror.

'You

can't help

attached'

year flew by until we found him a new home but it was a tough

Springfield.

'Good job the police officer Mike chuckled when he told

Anytime Mike is out for a while, I know he's probably

sticky situation.

fostering and care.

family to us.

Gizmo didn't move too far

we've made our own pack.

welovepets.care

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