

# Sunshine, the foster dog, gives birth to 11 pups

## Puppies will be ready for adoption in four or five weeks

By Jennifer McFee

A now-famous Stonewall pooch is adapting well to her new role as a mom to nearly a dozen pups.

Sunshine made headlines several weeks ago for running away in wintry weather while she was pregnant. She returned home on March 8 after travelling as far as Selkirk and Petersfield during a week on the run.

Now spring has sprung — and so have Sunshine's 11 puppies, who were born in the early morning on Friday, March 17.

The good news is tinged with a little sadness since the runt of the litter died on March 22 at about half the size of her five brothers and five sisters.

In spite of the loss, Sunshine is thriving in her new role.

ing in her new role.

"Sunshine is doing great. She's a really good mom. It's amazing that she came home," said John Savage, who is fostering Sunshine. "I'm going to guess that most of the puppies wouldn't have made it if she hadn't come home."

The pups will likely be ready for adoption in about four or five weeks through Manitoba Underdogs Rescue, Savage added.

"I know that several of the puppies will probably be adopted in the area," he said. "We'll probably take one."

For more information about Manitoba Underdogs Rescue, visit [www.manitobaunderdogs.org](http://www.manitobaunderdogs.org) or follow the group on Facebook and Twitter.



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The pups will be available for adoption through Manitoba Underdogs.

## > CHOCOLATOUR, FROM PG. 3

She noticed that the magazine *Home Business Report* lacked Manitoba content, so she stuck her neck out and offered herself as a writer.

Once she broke into the freelance business, the jobs began to follow.

*Home Business Report* had her write an article about a tourist lodge in Churchill, which led to additional work.

From magazine writing, Pendgracs dipped her toe into books, starting with a co-written travel guide, *Frommer's Newfoundland & Labrador*, and a few chapters in the *Manitoba Book of Everything*, before moving on to a solo publication, *Before You Say Yes*, which focuses on all aspects of volunteer work.

"When I first started doing books, I didn't think I could be a book author because I have a short attention span. I'm hyper and I like the vibrancy of

freelance work because it was always a buffet of different things you were working on."

In order to write an entire book, she tackled each chapter as though it were a stand-alone assignment.

And she picked a few battles along the way when working with editors, defending paragraphs or points she felt were integral to a story.

As for the proverbial rejection most freelancers will face, Pendgracs said one must remain positive.

"You never think you're a failure. You always consider it to be a challenge and an opportunity to either learn something new or change your direction. You never consider challenges or setbacks as failures because writing is a lifelong journey. And you'll come to forks in the road where you'll have to make decisions."

Pendgracs said it's important to con-

nect with other writers via listservs or professional writing associations and boards.

One of the most important tools a freelancer can have, she said, is a blog because it will not only help you practise your writing skills but also improve your chances of being discovered.

With cocoa having become a "life-changing" mission, Pendgracs is in the process of writing the second volume of *Chocolatour* in which she'll focus more on adventure.

"I've learned since I published Volume 1 that people love those adventure stories more than stories about chocolate. They want me covered in molten chocolate or trudging through muck on a cocoa plantation in Peru or Ecuador. That's what they like to read about. And, of course, you've got to back all your stories up with some interesting facts because the mission

of *Chocolatour* is to educate, entertain and entice chocolate lovers to explore the world through chocolate."

Her passion for the subject and the expertise she developed through on-the-ground research has made her a name in the world of travel. She's been contracted to lead a chocolate tour somewhere in the world for a Toronto-based tour company. And on May 12, she'll be hosting a coach tour from Gimli to Winnipeg chocolate-makers.

"You have to be patient and you have to believe in yourself," said Pendgracs. "You really have to believe that what you're doing is exciting because the key ingredient to success is passion. If you're a freelance writer and you're writing about stuff you don't enjoy, then it's time to change direction."

For more information about Pendgracs, visit [Chocolatour.net](http://Chocolatour.net).

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