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Driver delivers toothsome treats for canine customers

By Wayne Risher

Posted September 27, 2013 at 12:07 p.m.

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PHOTO BY MARK WEBER

FedEx delivery driver Robert Jackson plays with Bertie while making a pickup at Karen Adams Designs on Broad last week. Jackson, who is a dog lover, always carries treats for the canine friends on his route.



Canine companions of Broad Avenue business owners react to certain delivery trucks like a human hearing the ice cream van's siren song.

Jackson has the dogs trained to expect a tasty reward along with the daily pickup and delivery of packages.

At the sound of an approaching step van, Argus, a Saint Bernard, ambles toward the door at T. Clifton Art and

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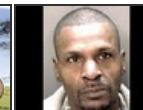
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69°

Overcast
Wind: S 6mph

Today

74°

66°

hopes it's not a false start, like the UPS driver.

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Welsh Corgis Cookie and Bertie sit up and take notice down the street at Karen Adams Designs, a stationery and greeting card business featuring Adams' hand-drawn designs.

By the time Jackson walks in, the dogs are on their best treat-seeking behavior, and Jackson doesn't disappoint.

He carries dog treats on board his truck for an estimated 40 to 50 dogs of business and residential customers on his route in Midtown and Binghamton. If he runs out of treats, luckily for him, Hollywood Feed is one of his customers.

Jackson's boss, FedEx Ground contractor Emily Lemmings, taught him the trick of the trade when he joined her company a year ago. "I would see her a lot of times with the dog treats when we were out," Jackson said. "I thought that would be cool to make a relationship with the dogs as well as the customers."

"My boss told me if you can't remember the customers' names, remember the dogs' names. I have a couple customers I can't remember their names, but I can remember the dogs' names," said Jackson, 31, a Horn Lake resident who previously worked for a satellite dish provider.

Jackson loves dogs and lights up when he talks about his favorites on the route: Cookie, Bertie, Argus and "big," as he refers to a Bull Mastiff at Hollywood Feed. He had three chows and a shih tzu of his own, but they died of old age and he didn't replace them. "They're like family."

Adams and her husband Edward O'Brien bring Cookie, 12, and Bertie, 3, to work every day. Jackson has been running their route since February. "He's a super nice guy. He's always in a good mood," said Adams.

As Jackson's late afternoon pickup approaches, Cookie waits near the front door. Bertie joins her when the truck arrives.

Cookie barks three times in greeting. Jackson dispenses treats and pets the pups before moving on to the business of scanning a cartful of outbound packages, with dogs underfoot.

At T. Clifton Art, Tom Clifton said Jackson is popular among humans, too.

"He's such a nice guy. He's just really thoughtful. Argus is my baby. The fact that he's so sweet to Argus endears me to Robert as well," Clifton said.

Jackson suggested that his competitor, a United Parcel Service driver, doesn't fare so well in dealings with dogs.

"I've seen the UPS guy come up and (the dogs) won't even deal with the UPS guy.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	MORE

Memphis Airshow
Millington Regional Jetport

Gonerfest 10
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Acrylic and Oil Painting classes with Jane Croy
Various locations

Painting Class with Melissa Dunn
Flicker Street Studio

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
Art Village Gallery

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Even down at Clifton's art gallery, Argus does not really deal with the UPS guy. It's always me."

Clifton said Argus "gets irritated with the UPS guy because he doesn't have anything for him. He's a huge dog, and he nudges him in the pocket where the treat should be."

"He kind of recognizes the truck when it pulls up," Clifton added. "If it's someone else and it's not Robert, he's so disappointed. He goes back and sits down."

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September 27, 2013
1 p.m.

MrRaulKemp writes:

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Michael Doyle, president of the Mid-South Fair's board of

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1:07 p.m.**rukiddinme writes:**

Cute story but for pete's sake can we get some proof readers???

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It is on Board or on Broad?

Is his name Johnson or Jackson?

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And Robert, sorry for the loss of your pets but you never "replace" them. You just get more because "like family", they are always with you.

September 27, 2013
1:19 p.m.**spades writes:**

Good for him.

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3:18 p.m.**TruBlu writes:**

Too cute!!

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5:27 p.m.**Niyaf writes:**in response to **rukiddinme**:

Cute story but for pete's sake can we get some proof readers???

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Is his name Johnson or Jackson?

And Robert, sorry for the loss of your pets but you never "replace" them. You just get more because "like family", they are always with you.

+1 Robert a wonderful tribute to your pets that have passed would be to give one of the thousands of animals desperate for a home in Memphis your love and a home.

September 27, 2013
6:14 p.m.**orchids writes:**

Such a sweet story!

[Suggest removal](#)[Reply to this post](#)September 27, 2013
6:59 p.m.**BogeyMan writes:**

"Jackson suggested that his competitor, a United Parcel Service driver, doesn't fare so well in dealings with dogs."

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FedEx's: Even dogs prefer FedEx.

UPS's: FedEx has gone to the dogs.

September 27, 2013
8:12 p.m.**srb writes:**in response to **BogeyMan**:

"Jackson suggested that his competitor, a United Parcel Service driver, doesn't fare so well in dealings with dogs."

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I can see the ads now:

FedEx's: Even dogs prefer FedEx.

UPS's: FedEx has gone to the dogs.

Ha ha! The Good Humor Man! Love it!!

September 27, 2013
9:29 p.m.

MaxDCA writes:

in response to **BogeyMan**:

"Jackson suggested that his competitor, a United Parcel Service driver, doesn't fare so well in dealings with dogs."

I can see the ads now:

FedEx's: Even dogs prefer FedEx.

UPS's: FedEx has gone to the dogs.

Good one!

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