**INTRO (AECHUS):** Wruff! Pup Aechus here with The Dog Dish, a paw’d-cast all about puppy play and the humans behind the hoods. For today’s episode, I barked with Pup Scout from Chicago, Illinois, about community—how it works with puppies, why it’s important, and how we can help strengthen it. We’ll discuss his involvement, some of the events for pups up in Chicago, and advice he has both for pups looking to join the community and for pups already in it who want to help welcome others.

So grab a chew toy, maybe find a comfy lap, and perk up your ears. Here’s my conversation with Pup Scout.

**AECHUS:** I wanted to talk specifically with you about building community, because I just -- I have this sense that everything you do for, with, and about puppy is always related to creating a sense of community wherever you are. And I'm kind of curious to dive into that and just ask, like, how that works or how you make that happen.

**SCOUT:** So community, that's something -- that's, like, the buzzword; right?

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** That's one of the most important things: Community, community, community, community. But it's not a buzzword for no reason. It's thrown out so much because it's so important. And I think, oftentimes, people dismiss the idea of building community as a copout; right?

Because, oh, you don't know what else to do; so you're going to work on building a community. But we can't dismiss it just because it's done so often. It's a necessity, and it's one of the biggest necessities, in my opinion. Because without that, we are -- and I don't want to say "nothing," because that comes off brash. But without that, we're just a bunch of people dressing up as dogs.

**AECHUS:** *(With a sarcastic tone)* I don't know what you're talking about.

**SCOUT:** And to put some -- to put that in a little bit of a different sense is the community, these people that come out that support us, they drive us to do better things. They drive us to be better people, **at least in my experience, and I know as the experience of many others that I've interacted with. People who are the community leaders often act in an interest of the community as a whole**as motivation to make this a better place, not just for themselves, but for the people that they care about.

We can use that as a motivation to say, "Hey, this is something that I care about. This is something that people that I care about care about." Sorry to mince the words like that. But why not come together and strive towards a common goal.

**AECHUS:** Yeah. And I would argue that, with puppy play in particular, if you're sitting there in the middle of, let's say, a mosh pod or something and you're the only pup there, there's not much going on, not much reward in it.

**SCOUT:** There's not much to do, yeah.

**AECHUS:** Yeah. And so you were starting to say something like the -- "Without community, there's nothing." I think that's not just a saying. I'd say that's accurate, that the -- the puppy community is why we have the puppy thing, so that we can all come together and kind of have fun together, relax together, kick back together, and all that --

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** -- and then without attention drawn to the necessity of community-building. We could very easily just sort of fall apart and lose track of each other.

**SCOUT:** Yep. Yeah. I think that's fair to say.

**AECHUS:** So what's the difference, then, between, say, building community online and building community in person? Because I live in a space where there's not that much physical puppy activity going on. And so I get a lot of my sense of community through social media, which then becomes, like, non-geographically specific in odd ways.

Can you talk a little bit about what you do to help local puppies.

**SCOUT:** So "local" in my geographical area? Because, I mean, Chicago is, like, booming for puppies. So I don't --

**AECHUS:** Yeah. What's your secret really?

**SCOUT:** It's -- I mean, it's just a metro area. There's a lot of people. Where there's more people, there's bound to be more people who are interested in the same thing.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** I don't think that there's necessarily a secret. I just think that with the access to more of a general population, you're bound to find more people who are interested in the same thing.

For rural areas, you can say -- okay. For just a random, made-up statistic, let's say 1 out of 100 people are puppies; completely, totally random.

**AECHUS:** Sure.

**SCOUT:** If you're in a state or an area where there's 200 people, well, 1 out of 100, that's 2 puppies.

**AECHUS:** Right.

**SCOUT:** If you're in a state with 10,000 people, you know, that's 100.

**AECHUS:** Yep.

**SCOUT:** So it comes down to just, I think, where the people -- where the people are. And it's unfortunate to say that, but "The more, the merrier."

**AECHUS:** Well, and -- I guess -- I mean, there's something to be said for how rare the -- the desire to be involved in puppy play is. And when you get to a lower-density population area, it's just going to fade into the background. And -- and there's no surprise, then, that people feel a little more isolated whenever they live somewhere away from a major metropolitan area.

**SCOUT:** Yeah. Which is -- which is a big struggle. And I think one of the biggest things that's affecting a lot of our community members is what do we do for those people that are all the way out in, for lack of better word, the middle of nowhere; right?

What do we do with the puppy who is in Topeka, Kansas? And he's then -- he might even be one of few people who's even in any sort of kink community, let alone puppy.

And, again, that brings back to the building of online communities. Obviously it's not the same. There's nothing like the human interaction. But it gives us a place to start, and it gives us an option to grow and move forward. I've met a lot of people through online when I was first coming in.

I used a website -- and I hope I'm not dating myself -- called PupZone. I don't know if it's still around, but --

**AECHUS:** I don't know either. I was about to say that might be before my time as a pup.

**SCOUT:** But for what it was, it was great. It was not terribly active. But for what it was, it was good. It was kind of like Facebook geared solely towards puppies. And I met a good bit of people online. And a lot of these people were out in different states, out in different towns, even out in different countries. But we just -- we developed this, sort of, camaraderie, I guess, or this rapport with each other to make me feel comfortable to reaching out towards people.

And then Facebook took over. And now Facebook is the huge platform for it, or FetLife or one of the other big social media giants.

**AECHUS:** Yeah. I was going to say Twitter and Telegram also have pretty big --

**SCOUT:** Twitter's big, yep. Telegram.

**AECHUS:** -- puppy populations.

**SCOUT:** Telegram's getting huge. I mean, life can throw you crazy twists and turns and curves. And maybe you meet somebody in New York City, and you're living in, you know, somewhere in the middle of the Midwest or rural area. And you decide, hey, well, New York City has a college that I was thinking about going to.

Maybe it's time to move up there. Maybe it's time to take a big step. Not saying that you absolutely have to relocate, but, you know -- you know, like I said, there could be a -- a curveball, and now you -- you already know somebody up there. So it's not as -- it's not this big, scary, strange place where, well, you know, I would want to go out there, but I just -- I don't want to be new at a new city. Well, you already have that foot in the door, that hold.

**AECHUS:** Yep. And you're already aware of somebody who's out there.

**SCOUT:** Yep.

**AECHUS:** And that can really help ease the introduction to a new place.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** I've personally done that twice now, I think. Maybe three times.

**SCOUT:** Yep.

**AECHUS:** I was visiting Houston and Seattle on different trips for various reasons, and I just reached out via Facebook to anybody that I knew in those cities and said, "Hey, I'll be here on these days. Is there any kind of puppy event going on?"

And in one case, there was; and another case, there wasn't. And I just showed up and met up with somebody that I had never met in real life but knew them from on Facebook and basically said, "Oh, so that's what you look like in 3D."

**SCOUT:** [Laughter].

**AECHUS:** And then spent the evening just hanging out. And, you know, that was my introduction to the puppy community in those cities. And it was fantastic.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** Okay. Like, ended up crashing on their couch too, which saved a hotel fee; so it was great. Not that I need to be, you know, advocating for puppy B&B, but --

**SCOUT:** Yeah; right? Just like yourself -- I mean, I have a friend who works for the airline. And I see posts of him all the time: Hey, going to be in X, Y, and Z area or this ZIP code or this state next week for work. Anybody want to meet up?

And they always post pictures of them, you know, having lunch or coffee or out and about. And it looks like a great time. Well, the world is a big place. The benefit of having a community that's smaller in the grand scheme of things is that it's more closely knit so that we can make this great, big world seem a little bit smaller.

**AECHUS:** And it's easier to, kind of, reach out and make a -- an individual human connection within the mass of other stuff to go through.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** Yep. Very cool.

**SCOUT:** Absolutely.

**AECHUS:** So if somebody is -- let's say they're in -- how to phrase the question.

What I eventually want to get to is something like what can we do other than just attend events to help support community if we don't have the resources to try and build it ourselves?

**SCOUT:** And that's a rough question. And I don't know that that's a question that I have an answer to.

**AECHUS:** Okay.

**SCOUT:** I think there's a lot of pieces to it, and I think there's a lot of things that people are doing that are making it work for what it is. But I don't -- I can't say confidently that I have an answer to that, because it is such a struggle to do that.

The only thing that I can think of is you have to put it in the hands of the local members. And somebody has to step up and say, "Hey, guys, I" -- "I want to organize something local."

Because, again, while events are great, like CLAW and IML and IPC and IPTC and those events, not everybody has the bandwidth to travel. So it doesn't have to be big events. I've learned that going bowling or going to a movie or just having a game night at your house can be just as satisfying when conducted the right way.

**AECHUS:** So what I'm hearing, then, is to treat the puppy community, not necessarily as a group of people who always have to be doing puppy things, but as a group of people who are available to do things and to just --

**SCOUT:** Yes.

**AECHUS:** -- invite puppies to get together to enjoy each other's company, not necessarily with gear or anything like that.

**SCOUT:** Yes.

**AECHUS:** Just to spend time with each other.

**SCOUT:** Yep. And one of the greatest successes that I've personally seen -- and, unfortunately, some of them have gone under-attended and in the recent events -- is pushing things out of bars.

Because for whatever reason, I know that, you know, that's, kind of, the attraction. That's where the scene is. That's the lifestyle to go out and hang out at a bar and do things.

And, of course, we want to -- we're puppies who want to have puppy time, but yeah. Get a group of friends and go to the zoo, go to the mall, go out for pizza, go to a concert, any -- any sort of number of things. Because we're people outside of this and that your human side needs to be stimulated just as much as your puppy side.

**AECHUS:** And getting things out of bars is also good in case there are puppies under the age of 21 in the community.

**SCOUT:** Oh, absolutely.

**AECHUS:** It really restricts their ability to participate when everything happens where alcohol is served.

**SCOUT:** Yep. Yeah.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** I'll tell you on a personal note, I was pretty frustrated with the local community when I was under 21. Oh, my gosh, I can't wait, I can't wait, I can't wait, I can't wait until I turn 21. The problem was then I overdid it. Because I was, like, oh, I can finally go out and I can finally meet all these people and I can finally go and -- and get drunk at a bar and be a puppy and have fun. And it was great. It was some of the most fun I've had.

But when that's the only time that you can get that sort of headspace, it becomes very easy to associate that with having to drink alcohol.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** Or even if you don't drink, being around alcohol.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** So I think that's kind of a slippery slope because that's -- your brain automatically makes that connection: Oh my gosh, fun, puppies, bar.

**AECHUS:** Right.

**SCOUT:** So if I want to have fun and be around puppies, I need to be in a bar. Well, what's a bar? There's alcohol in a bar. And not to say --

**AECHUS:** That's not always good.

**SCOUT:** Yeah, which is not always good. And not to say that that's, like, 100 percent the case. But it's something that can notice, and I've noticed. There was a little bit of a time where I had a problem getting into headspace without having a couple drinks just because that's what it was. That's what I learned.

**AECHUS:** That's funny. I'm kind of the exact opposite, and it's a bit of a frustration for me.

So I live alone. The only other creature in my house is my bio cat.

**SCOUT:** Okay.

**AECHUS:** And, like, he doesn't really appreciate having a human pup crawling around.

**SCOUT:** [Laughter].

**AECHUS:** He gives me some weird looks.

**SCOUT:** Oh, no. Poor kitty.

**AECHUS:** Poor kitty. He -- he's not very happy with me. And so, like, there's very little in my home that would stimulate a puppy --

**SCOUT:** Yes.

**AECHUS:** -- because, I mean, I don't have one; so, right.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** And so the times that I usually interact with other human pups is in a bar, and to me, I can't get into a puppy headspace in a bar because of all the human-related stimulation around.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** And I don't feel like it's a safe space to get around and crawl around.

**SCOUT:** Oh, absolutely.

**AECHUS:** Maybe that's just because of the bars in the Tampa area. I'm not sure. But if I'm actually going to get into headspace, it has to be much safer and calmer then what I've ever seen in a bar.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** And so I've got this weird thing going on right now where I so rarely get into headspace, I almost forget what it feels like. And I have to go out of my way to create an environment where I'm able to comfortably get into that space, because the local puppy events aren't really designed for that. They're designed to be -- not to be -- uh, what? -- not to dive into the headspace instead.

**SCOUT:** Yeah. Yeah, like a mosh.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** And we we had a similar experience there.

Our local puppy bar is Cell Block. Great. I love it. Cell Block has done so much for the Chicago puppy community, but the area that we had -- now, this is prior to them graciously opening up the back area for us to put our mats down. And now we actually have a full-sized room to put our mats down and mosh.

**AECHUS:** That's awesome.

**SCOUT:** Before we had a square of maybe ten square feet; like, not big at all. You could fit maybe ten mats on there. And it was very hard, but -- because it was designed to be social. You could get maybe one or two pups on the mats, but they couldn't do much than putz a ball back and forth. There was never room for, like, actual moshing or wrestling. And it was great, but I totally understand. It just was that the space was not conducive to what we wanted to do.

**AECHUS:** Yep.

**SCOUT:** And it was frustrating. But, you know, you play with the hands that you're dealt. Fortunately now we have a little bit of a bigger space. But yeah. Not -- not everybody has that, and it can be a little frustrating.

**AECHUS:** It's funny. In Central Florida we find, a lot of times, when we have puppies get together for events of any sort, it gets too bloody hot; that we all just say, "Screw it. We're hopping in the pool."

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** And it becomes a puppy pool party. Which, I mean, not that there's anything wrong with that, but boy do we smell when we get out of there.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** It's fun, though. Everybody just flopping in and, you know, chasing toys that people are throwing to the other end of the pool and all that, yeah.

**SCOUT:** Yeah. That sounds -- that sounds fun.

**AECHUS:** Good times. But then again, I can't get into headspace because I would drown.

**SCOUT:** Right. Right. And I think -- well, you bring up a really great point, and small headspace tangent, in that you have to be in an environment that makes you feel safe.

**AECHUS:** Yep.

**SCOUT:** Because this is a vulnerable headspace.

**AECHUS:** Yep.

**SCOUT:** Even if you do identify -- like, even myself, I do identify as an alpha, a guard dog. Even though it's a dominant headspace, it's still vulnerable, because my inhibitions -- or my higher thinking is diluted due to that puppy headspace.

So I absolutely would agree with you that I wouldn't feel comfortable going into a small, crowded space where I don't know a lot of people and letting myself go like that.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** With practice, that's gotten better. I've been able to, kind of, snap in and out of headspace, not on command, but almost. But yeah. When I first started out, I was, like, there is no way I am going to a bar and getting down on all fours where there are 50 people that I have no idea who they are and they're drunk and they're tripping all over and --

**AECHUS:** Well, and -- I mean, in -- gosh, in their defense, slightly I suppose, you don't normally expect to run into a dog when you're in a bar.

**SCOUT:** Exactly. Well, exactly. No. No, I know. No fault of their own.

**AECHUS:** Right.

**SCOUT:** Absolutely. Absolutely.

**AECHUS:** Don't blame them for tripping over you.

**SCOUT:** Absolutely no fault of their own, but yeah. It's not what the space was designed for.

**AECHUS:** Right, yeah. So I guess the moral of the story here is just to, like, be aware of the space that you're in before you consider what sort of headspace that you feel like getting into at the time.

**SCOUT:** Yep.

**AECHUS:** And then the corollary to that is that --

Are puppies allowed to use a word like that?

**SCOUT:** "Corollary"? I believe so, yeah.

**AECHUS:** The corollary to that is that there are plenty of ways to socialize with pups, and you just have to pick the way that's appropriate given the space and situation. And, you know, puppy play doesn't always involve moshing. It can also be just talking with one another and not even getting into headspace, and it still counts.

**SCOUT:** Yeah, yeah. Absolutely.

**AECHUS:** Cool. I saw the name -- and I've forgotten the name already. But I saw the name of a group up there. Is it the Chicago Puppy Patrol?

**SCOUT:** Yes. That's our local group.

**AECHUS:** So how are you involved in that? Like, what is that organization?

**SCOUT:** I was involved. I had an honorary seat on the board during my title year of 2016 when I was Illinois Puppy. And since then, there's been a lot of changes, some drastic changes.

A couple years ago, they had their first elected board positions. So prior to that, they were appointed board positions. It was the founders and the co-founders saying this is our organization. And I'll be the president, you'll be the vice president, and you can be the -- the treasurer or -- or secretary or -- or whatever. And then once it became popular, once more people started to know what it was, there was enough of a demand to say, okay, let's do elected positions, because now we actually have enough members for people to vote.

Before, it was, like, okay, there's five members who have a voting right, and there's five people sitting here. And so --

**AECHUS:** [Laughter].

**SCOUT:** -- there's not much to vote on.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** So --

**AECHUS:** So how long did that take? How long was the process from, like, it got formed to it has enough to make elections worthwhile?

**SCOUT:** I would say roughly -- I don't know exactly when it was formed.

**AECHUS:** Sure.

**SCOUT:** If I had to guess, I would say about five years.

**AECHUS:** Whoo.

**SCOUT:** And that's a very broad guess.

**AECHUS:** Sure.

**SCOUT:** Because I think the Chicago Puppy Patrol technically existed for a very long time before it got any sort of wide recognition.

**AECHUS:** Sure.

**SCOUT:** So that's why I use that term.

**AECHUS:** Well --

**SCOUT:** Once they decided to start moving forwards, I would say for everything to get settled, maybe about a year and a half.

Because I know they just got their 501(c)(3). They're a licensed nonprofit organization. Their bylaws have been published and authorized, and the website is up. Facebook is up.

**AECHUS:** Cool.

**SCOUT:** And it's moving towards, or already is, a fully functional, like, nonprofit organization.

**AECHUS:** Awesome. Very cool. And --

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** I wouldn't worry about the accuracy. Puppies can't count anyway.

**SCOUT:** [Laughter]. So starting off with what kinds of things it takes for an organization like that to work. You need a lot of time, first and foremost. This is not something that you can just sit down one day and say, "We're going to do this, and it's going to be great." You also need people who are going to be devoted to commit that time.

And you have to understand that if you want something that's going to impact a lot of people, you have to be ready to put in the blood, the sweat, the tears, to make that happen.

And I -- anybody that is part of an organization or is on the board of an organization has my utmost respect for sitting through it, doing the grunt work, doing the paperwork, the bylaws, arguing with your fellow board members.

We don't always agree. And having the resolve to say, "You know what? We might be disagreeing on this particular issue. I might not like you right now. We might be fighting, but we have a commitment to this community."

That's where you really need dedicated people who have strong opinions and strong resolve about those opinions and a lot of drive to get it done.

**AECHUS:** And the ability to be cordial and committed --

**SCOUT:** Yes.

**AECHUS:** -- to the ideals. Yeah.

**SCOUT:** Yes. Yep.

**AECHUS:** Yep. And then so what kinds of things does Chicago Puppy Patrol do for the pups in the area?

**SCOUT:** Chicago Puppy Patrol puts on a lot of events. We have our monthly bar night at Cell Block. That's a long-standing event.

Some of the things that we did when we pushed out of the bars: We did movies in the park at Pritzker Pavilion in the summer. I think once a week or once every other week, they show moves in the concert -- it's a, kind of, a concert -- outdoor concert area. And they put up a big projector. And we would go out and take picnic baskets, and we would take our pup hoods and be out.

Full Moon Fire Jam is, kind of, another event like that. Every full moon, out by the beach, there's a larger scaled event that we've, kind of, brought our own posse into. And turned it into an official Chicago Puppy Patrol event.

I say "we." I didn't have much of a direct influence, but as a member of their -- of the organization, I use the term "we."

And that's really great; one of those things where you can just kind of get out there, dance, listen to music.

**AECHUS:** So --

**SCOUT:** Some of -- oh, go ahead.

**AECHUS:** It sounds to me like the Chicago Puppy Patrol, kind of, helps direct pups to other events that are already taking place in the local community so that puppies have a presence there and also have -- I don't know -- have a -- a -- a group to -- to be a part of when they attend events.

Does that sound about right?

**SCOUT:** Yeah. Yeah, that does.

**AECHUS:** Cool.

**SCOUT:** And I can speak personally to -- to the effect -- the positive effect that it does have when you have access to a group that's going to an event.

There's been a couple events where it's been, like, oh, you know, I don't know if I'll like that or I don't know if I really want to go to that or for whatever reason I'm not feeling like going out.

And when you have that motivation, you have people, "Oh, come on." Like, "It'll be fun." "Come" -- "Come spend time with the puppies." And I've gone to some events that have turned out to be some of my best experiences in the city.

**AECHUS:** Nice. Yeah. So -- so they're not necessarily puppy events. They just happen to be events done with puppies.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** Nice.

**SCOUT:** Absolutely.

**AECHUS:** Nice.

**SCOUT:** And that's -- that's one of the things that I can really speak to for other organizations and stuff. It doesn't have to be a puppy event. Obviously, you don't want to go to an event where you're at an art gallery and wear your puppy hoods --

**AECHUS:** [Laughter].

**SCOUT:** -- and you're just disturbing, you know, the -- an area that's supposed to be quiet and cordial and --

**AECHUS:** Sure.

**SCOUT:** -- whatever. But appropriate time and place. But there are things out there that you can definitely bring your group to, your friends or your community or whomever and enjoy yourself.

**AECHUS: Yeah. It definitely sounds like the outdoor activities are probably the ones to go to.**

**SCOUT:** Yes.

**AECHUS:** Yeah. Nice.

**SCOUT:** Ice skating. We do ice skating every year at The Bean, which is amazing. That's something that we do wear our puppy hoods to all the time, and people -- there are some people that get really into it. They love it.

One more thing that I wanted to kind of up the importance of local groups is it gives people a sense of belonging, and it almost gives people a sense of importance or accomplishment where you can say, "I want to strive to set out to become a member."

There are certain things for groups that you would have to do, whether it be attend a certain amount of events, volunteer, vote in the elections, help with a fundraiser. That's a goal that you can achieve. And then you're bestowed with, you know, the patch or the armband or the dog tags or whatever your group has. That's a -- that's something that you've accomplished, and it's something that's tangible.

It's something that you can say, "Wow. Look at this patch that I have on my vest that I earned." And now I am spending time with all these other people who are doing the same things as me, have the same interests.

**AECHUS:** And along those lines, it lets you feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself.

**SCOUT:** Yeah.

**AECHUS:** Because when the organization is off doing things and you're contributing to that, you see the effects of your efforts.

**SCOUT:** Yeah. It feels good.

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** And then you can move more into -- once you're a more established member, you can move into one of the most important things: Helping new people out. Because I guarantee, every person out there that's in this community or -- or any community, kink or non-kink, there was somebody or multiple somebodies who advocated for you to come and be a part of it.

I don't want to say that "nobody," because that's a -- you know, an absolute.

**AECHUS:** It's a dangerous word.

**SCOUT:** But yeah. But there -- I -- I would say confidently that there are very few people who just all by themselves jumped in and said, "I'm a part of this now."

**AECHUS:** Yeah.

**SCOUT:** Everybody needs a little bit of help.

**AECHUS:** Yep.

**SCOUT:** And I think that's one of the most important things to do is once you're in and once you're established, it's almost your duty to be that person or attempt to be that person for somebody else.

**AECHUS:** Yep. Absolutely.

**SCOUT:** At least that's why I do it.

A lot of the times people ask, you know, "Why" -- "What do you get out of it? What do you do for it? Why do you do the things that you do?"

It's because people have done it for me. And this community has changed my life, saved my life, been the best part of my life. And so it feels only right to me. And it feels good just to help somebody else be happy.

When we try to involve people in our community, I think it's important to note that it doesn't have to be this huge, grand act. It can be one, small, little gesture of kindness: Passing a toy to somebody, initiating a conversation, bringing somebody over.

That's where things start, and that initial spark is potentially the most powerful thing that you can do is initiating some sort of welcome to somebody. Because I think it's important to remember that you don't have to do this awesome act. You don't have to, you know, offer to fly somebody out or stay at your house or go to an event or travel half way across the country to go out and meet them. You can do something simple, and it could mean the world to them.

**OUTRO (AECHUS):** Thanks for listening to The Dog Dish, and thanks again to Scout for taking the time to speak with me. In the next episode, we’ll hear from Darian McBark from the Great White North about how gender and puppy play intersect. Subscribe through your favorite podcast player, and stay tuned for more!