

We at PAWS wanted to honor the late Charles Schulz for constantly reminding us that pets are wonderful support but somehow we've ended up plagiarizing him instead. We're really sorry but what could we or anyone say about the human animal bond that for fifty years, he didn't say better over and over again?

April 1960: Lucy: Happiness is a warm puppy.

January 1966: The psychiatrist is in: 5 cents; Hug a warm puppy: 1 cent.

April 1989: Charlie Brown to Snoopy: "Here we are...two old friends sitting together sharing a sandwich...I can tell you it just doesn't get any better than this!"

April 1990: Charlie Brown: "If I can't do anything else, at least I can sit and hold my dog in my lap..."

Dec. 1990: "You don't have to worry, Snoopy. I'd never sell you. You and I are friends. We're buddies. In fact, you're the best thing that's ever happened to me."

December 28, 1993: Snoopy: The Dog--that most magnificent of all Creatures.

Lucy: What kind of dog are you talking about?

Snoopy: Any dog.

October 96: Linus: "Dogs always know what to do."

March 1997: Linus: "How do you suppose Moses knew when it was safe to go across the Red Sea?"

Snoopy: "His dog probably went across first."

October 1998: Linus: "Snoopy, it makes me feel good to know that I can always talk to you about the great pumpkin."

March 1996: Charlie Brown: Sometimes I lie awake at night and I think....or I sort of ask...I mean, I lie here in the dark, and...or else I just lie awake and I wonder or...or I ask...and then this voice comes to me that says: "You have a dog...be happy!"

For fifty years all of us have been happy with a virtual dog named Snoopy, an indomitable critter who day after day virtuously delivers unconditional joy to more human beings than any canine in the history of the known world. When all else fails we know we can still at least count on him.

So, to pay tribute to this leader of the support dog pack, thanks to the generosity of his creator we have brought here tonight from the backyard of our imagination, the command post from which that alpha beagle runs the world, the one and only Snoopy.

And now as part of this year's Petchitecture, on behalf of everyone invested in the human animal bond, PAWS is outrageously proud to present Snoopy's doghouse to the real world in honor of the late Charles Schulz.

Unfortunately, on behalf of everyone at PAWS, its canine clients and all people and dogs everywhere, to do this we have to plagiarize Mr. Schulz one last time.

July 1993: Charlie Brown: "...little friend... Don't worry, I'm here. I'm here to give you reassurance everything is all right. ...And I will always be here to take care of you! Be re-assured." (frown) "Who reassures the re-assurer?"

We are all the answer to that question. PAWS and all of you who help us. Pets Are Wonderful Support has only one mission in the world: to reassure the re-assurer that even in the worst of times their pet will have the best of care, that they can be together like always. So sleep well Snoopy in your new doghouse for it doesn't get any better than that.

(turn over to whoever accepts the doghouse.)