

Garage Sale Gal **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



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Lynda Hammond

Garage Sale helps furry friend ***Lynda Hammond***

It's been a rough year for Jocco Lee. He's had major surgery, takes two pills a day—and will for the rest of his life. He has plates and screws in one leg and may have to have another operation soon. “He's still happy go lucky, though. He's a good guy and we just really love him,” says Jerry Pepper.

Jocco is a 5-year-old Rottweiler.

For Jerry and his partner, Richard Mosher, Jocco is everything to them. It was about a year ago when their 120 pound “baby” started limping. “Actually, we both cried because our first “rotty” we had started limping and she had cancer that had spread everywhere. So, it brought back bad memories,” Jerry says.

They took Jocco to the doctor immediately where he was diagnosed with torn ligaments and cartilage in his back legs. Jocco underwent surgery to fix one leg and the vet bills totaled about \$6000. Some might say this is a lot of money to spend on a dog but not when you consider that Jocco and their other pets---two more dogs, including Jocco's sister, Justine and a cat---are their “kids”. “They're our family. I would do anything for them. They are my life.”

So, knowing there may be more surgery down the road for Jocco, Jerry and Richard needed to bring in some extra money.

The Glendale residents tried selling their collectibles on eBay, the on-line auction site-- Beanie Babies, paperweights and stuffed Boyds bears. But not only did the items not sell—they lost money because of expenses associated with listing the items.

So, they held a garage sale. “It actually worked out really well. People were really nice. Some people would hand us the money for items and would tell us to keep the change because they knew it was going to help Jocco.” Jerry and Richard made about \$1500 during their 2-day sale.

The extra money couldn't come at a better time. Like a lot of us these days, the economy has hit them hard. “We're in a difficult situation right now. We've run up some credit card bills. The house is now worth \$60,000 less than what we paid for it so we wouldn't be able to get a loan against the house if we needed it.”

Another surgery for Jocco could total \$5000 but Jerry doesn't let it get him down. Nope, he's looking on the bright side of life. “We have a great life. And when we compare ourselves to everything else that's going on in the world we're just us lucky as can be.”



(Photo by: Richard Mosher) Jerry Pepper and Jocco show off their Beanie Baby collection. They sold quite a few of the collectibles and other items at a recent garage sale in Glendale. Jocco's vet bills have been mounting and holding a garage sale was a great way to bring in some extra money to help pay for Jocco's care. Part of Jerry's secret to a successful sale is in the signs. "We put up these huge, wooden 4 ft. sandwich board signs on major corners. It's hard to miss those."

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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