### The Good Shepherd?

By Cathy Dausman



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Moraga resident Lisa Gillette holds new kitten Hobbes, with dogs Ember (frog in mouth), Duncan, Guinevere and Allison looking on. Photos Cathy Dausman

mber is a nine-month-old red heroine or a thief is open to debate.

Ember lives in Moraga with Lisa Gillett; Lisa owns lots of pets. In April, Gillett's pet census included three cats, a turtle, a fish and a canary, two horses and four Australian Shepherd dogs. The dogs are Ember, her father Duncan, a 6-year-old black tricolor male, her mother Allison, a 4year-old blue merle female, and a Hobbes. light colored 1-year-old female named Guinevere.

On Easter Sunday afternoon, Guinevere and Ember went on a "walkabout" near the grounds of their Bollinger Canyon home. They were gone about an hour when Gillette took the other two dogs out to find them. She spotted the young dogs running toward her, and noticed Ember was carrying something in her mouth. Guinevere wanted it, but Ember carefully kept her prize to her-

self. Ember was literally dancing with excitement when Gillette heard mewing. It was a male ginger kitten so young its eyes hadn't opened yet. "He wasn't any bigger than a British banger [sausage]," and weighed about four ounces Gillette said, but "he was dirty and spitting, and fighting mad."

merle Australian Shepherd; that shirt for warmth, bought kitten milk much is certain. Whether she's a replacer, and bottle fed the tiny creature eight to 10 times daily around the clock. Dog mother Allison claimed the kitten as her own, and licked and cleaned it on a regular basis (mother cats lick their kittens after birth to clean and stimulate them; kittens groom themselves by four weeks).

> He became "the cleanest kitten ever," said Gillette, who named him

Today the "older and badder" Hobbes is thriving, said Gillette, who

Gillette cradled it beneath her took him for a checkup. Hobbes happily plays with his dog family, plunking himself down on the dog bed, and likes to play with the other three cats. When Hobbes gets too rambunctious, he's given a 'timeout' in a converted dog crate.

Gillette's not sure whether Ember should be praised or punished for "stealing" the kitten, and Hobbes' mother and siblings were never found. One thing's for sure—this kitten has warmed Gillette's heart, and stolen the hearts of her Shepherd



Australian Shepherd Guinevere snuggles with Hobbes

## Moraga Royale's Alaskan Cruise

**Submitted by Jessica McCormick** 



From left, Connie Kuhlmann, Sharon Shields, Lois Valcalda, Aleksandra Bjelogrlic, Alsida Canton, Dorothy Schwab, Anne Derose, Luita Lynch, Josephine Cuttica, Cece Fitzgerald, Elaine Fitzgerald, Cleo Fitzgerald. Photo provided

our residents of Moraga Royale, along with three staff members and five friends and family members, set sail on a 10-day voyage from San Francisco to Alaska May 13, stopping in Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Sea Princess. Luita Lynch, Josephine Cuttica, Dorothy Schwab and Lois Valcalda, all residents of Moraga Royale, filled their days with sightseeing, reading, relaxing, eating, gambling, shopping, and much more.

Luita Lynch described her favorite part of their journey: "The whole Alaska trip was fun, exciting, and beautiful, and one of the very best memories I have is of coming home to San Francisco," she said. "It was stormy and raining when we sailed

past Washington and Oregon, but The sky was pink and the bridge when we got to the California coast it was calm and the sky looked like it was going to be a beautiful day. We we passed all the familiar places. I've came into San Francisco Bay just before sunrise, and when we sailed arriving in San Francisco by water is Kechikan, and Victoria, aboard the under the Golden Gate Bridge (which one of the most beautiful experiences was all prettied up for its anniversary) I've ever had. There truly is no place the sun was just below the horizon. like home!"

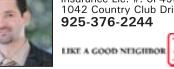
looked awesome against the rising sun. San Francisco was gleaming as done a lot of traveling, but I think that

#### Vacation Stories Good and Bad

As we mentioned in our July 4 issue, Lamorinda Weekly wants to hear about your vacations – the memorable ones like a European honeymoon or a Disney trip where no one got sick, or the not-sofun side trips – the ones that maybe included bee stings, running out of gas, lost children, rained out picnics or anything else you'd care to share. Send your unique stories and trip pics to cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com and prepare yourself for a different type of vacation experience - one you can read about!

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