

# Shelby's a carpet connoisseur

Whoever invented the saying, a dog is 'man's best friend,' obviously never met mine.

She just doesn't qualify.

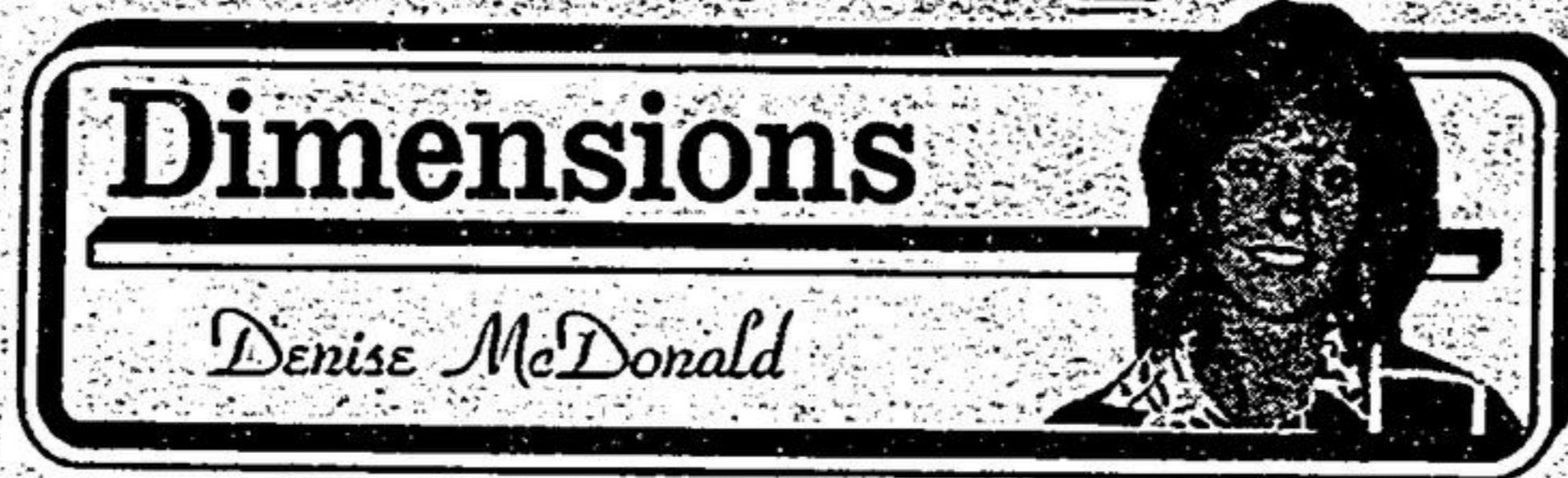
First of all, Shelby hates men, plain and simple. It's a very rare instance when someone of the male persuasion enters my home, she doesn't immediately drop the tail between her legs and dash for the nearest hiding spot.

But then I can't say I really blame her.

I can't think of anyone, whether human or animal, who likes being referred to as the 'ugliest mutt in the world.'

She can't help it if she's a cross between a German shepherd and some sort of hound, (we've almost got it narrowed down to greyhound.)

Myself, I think she's kinda



## Dimensions

Denise McDonald

cute as do any other females who've met her. The sad eyes, droopy ears and skinny little body are real heart grabbers.

So instead of referring to her as 'man's best friend,' I've decided to call her 'a family's greatest source of added headaches.'

Take for instance, a few short weeks after we first got her.

### First got her

Not relishing the idea of having a puppy roaming the vast

expanses of beige carpeting gracing our upstairs, we kept her locked up in the basement.

Within two days, she ate the finish off my antique cedar chest, chewed the panelling and molding off the walls, and tried out her new molars on the first two steps of carpeting at the bottom of the stairs.

Then there was the time she decided she was going to help me decorate the Christmas tree. Only I couldn't seem to make her understand, you're supposed to put the decora-

tions on, not take them off. Everytime I turned around to put something new on the tree, the last thing was missing.

Or take the evening my mother spent baking Christmas cookies, which she left to cool on the kitchen table.

I would never have believed it possible for a dog to consume seven dozen in 30 seconds flat. But she did.

Then she has had lots of practice.

### Bet money on it

True to habit, I usually sit myself down in front of the T.V. some time after dinner, with a bag of chips in one hand, and the dip in the other. But it never fails after finally getting myself comfortable, I have to get up to change the channel. So on to the table go the chips and dip.

I could bet money on it every time, they won't be there when I turn around. And she quiet's about it too. I think there's some fox in her background as well.

And while some people have to baby proof their homes, ours is dog-proofed.

You never leave a drink or anything breakable on our coffee tables. If you do, the tail's sure to get it every time. It's a lethal weapon, that's been contributing to the vast decrease in glassware available at our house.

In the long run, she'll probably also be responsible for someone in my home having a coronary.

Only last week, we had our entrance foyer recarpeted. However, while issuing the appropriate comments regarding the redecoration, we turned around to see Shelby happily chewing on a foot long strip of the very same carpeting.

### If looks could kill

I hope dogs have nine lives such as cats supposedly do, because if looks could kill, our dog is working on her second and third.

Down we all went on hands and knees to see where she'd stolen the incriminating evidence. Nothing was missing. We know she tore it off somewhere, but up till now, we just can't figure out from where.

Then there's the matter of her bark.

She may only be an average size dog, but she's got the bellow of a bull moose.

She also can't distinguish between the sound of our door bell ringing from those on T.V.

There you are comfortably lying in front of the fireplace, watching the television when, a bell sounds.

### Off and running

"And she's off and running. In the first turn, it's Shelby wiping out four glasses on the table, and dragging Mom's knitting half way up the stairs. In the second turn, we see her wipe Meredith out coming down the stairs and careen into the hall closets as she rounds into the turn..."

So I'm sure you must be asking yourselves by now, just why we keep her if she's such a bother.

The answer came to us last November.

One evening, just shortly after we moved into our new house, the doorbell rang and we found on our doorstep a salesman who didn't seem to understand the meaning of the words "No thank you."

Shelby got the point across. One bark and a little growl and he was off and running. But won't he feel silly if he ever finds out she only did that because she was afraid of him.

True, she is a lot of work and is sometimes very frustrating. But when walking alone at night, (even in Stouffville,) or staying by yourself at home, what could make you feel safer than an affectionate, warm, 50-pound burglar alarm?



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