

# *The Sunday Suzie*

9 Aug 2015

## **The dog days of summer**



**Min pin on patrol.** Suzie, in possession of the ball, nevertheless remains alert to Possible Incursions into her domain. Usually these take the form of squirrels, but also sparrows (I've never seen a dog who pays so much attention to sparrows), and even, sometimes (usually in the evenings), raccoons!



**“Be alert – the world needs more lerts!”** Suzie in front of the garage, watching something on the fence opposite. Her main concerns are, squirrels and sparrows –but then there’s the Horrible Screaming Monster – by which of course I mean the neighbor’s squeaky clothesline, which when used makes Suzie go nuts. Despite our efforts to de-traumatize the sound for her, she still runs up and down barking at the jerking clothes. (Speaking of trauma, the woman next door tends to flee inside after quickly putting out or taking in clothes. We feel bad about that, and have considered one evening going out and oiling the clothesline – though we will have to ask the neighbors first.)



**In the garage – because of the heat!** Suzie on the folding chair in the garage, where it's nominally cooler (we close it up at night). She also explores the garage and frequently comes out with things that we have to take away from her.



**Zooming in – but of course Suzie changes position!** Suzie examines something on her toes.



**And zooming in further ...**      Something really magical about this image – that comes from Suzie herself.

# Suzie goes visiting

(with Harold and Gerry)



**Move over Edmund Hillary...** “Uncle” Ray invited Suzie and Harold and Gerry to visit in Brampton, for a barbecue. It was close to an hour’s drive, but Suzie was all for it. Here Suzie boldly goes even beyond Ray’s backyard, into the next door neighbor’s yard (no fence between). It was a very big day for her – almost out in the country, with enormous backyards.

The return journey, at night, was another experience. It turned out that Suzie isn’t pleased with darkness around the car. It was okay when there were streetlights, but when it was just road – oh, no, no, no! There was a certain amount of whimpering, which Harold had to deal with. In the end, Suzie went under the blanket on Harold’s lap until she got used to the idea. When we returned to the city, she was recovered – lots of lights.



**Brave New Backyard.** Suzie explores Uncle Ray's back yard. Lots of running, lots of exploring. No actual squirrels, though. But still – lots to sniff; a lot of cedars, with deep shadows underneath for investigation.



**On the Run!** Suzie, running about Ray's backyard. Since it was not enclosed entirely, Gerry had to keep an especially close watch, but still, Suzie had fun. She didn't try to go around the house into the front yard, and since Ray's back yard is quite large, there was plenty of space to run around in.





**On Ray's back porch.** Suzie in Harold's arms, looking earnestly out from the porch. Watching for squirrels – completely unaware that right at the moment she is looking rather squirrel-like herself!



**Dinner prep.** Suzie watches Uncle Ray do the barbecue thing – earnestly again. It smelled good. (She got several *very tiny* pieces of steak – we had brought a raw chicken wing and some ground beef for her.)



**Unspeakable contentment.** Suzie watches Uncle Ray cook, while Harold enjoys the blessing of having an *unspeakably cute* puppy on his lap.



**Inside Ray's place.** Suzie on the couch next to Gerry, watching things. Harold is watching her watching him. Lots of watching going on.



**Conquest of a Couch.** Suzie sits on Ray's couch, looking contented but alert. Everything here is new, so she must keep a watch all the time!

# Back in the Park



**That Long Leash – so chewy ...** Harold sits with Suzie going at the long leash, which she attacks from time to time. A warm sunny day – Gerry keeping a close watch on the situation above and below now.



**Keeping an eye out.** As Harold and Gerry sit in the shade, Suzie (above) takes a break from the leash when she hears the subway trains moving in the TTC yards adjacent. Then she goes (below) to the fence to peer through. What is all that noise?



**Eh? What?** I make my special noise – to get a facing-the-camera shot that is quite wonderful. Amazing dog!





**Back home...** Suzie trails Harold through the backyard gate, still chewing on the leash. Good to get home, to get unharnessed and have a drink of cold water in the kitchen.