



## **Bagels Come Home**

Joan Betty Stuchner

illustrated by Dave Whamond

ISBN: 978-1-4598-0346-6

### **About the Book**

Eight-year-old Josh and his family adopt an energetic puppy from a local shelter. Bagels has got a big personality and a talent for escaping. He's even expelled from obedience school. He gets into laundry, groceries and even a neighbor's koi pond. Josh and his little sister, Becky, are worried that if Bagels doesn't shape up, their parents will send him back to the shelter. Can Bagels redeem himself before it's too late? (Of course he can!)

### **About the Author**

**Joan Betty Stuchner** has a head full of stories. She writes many of them down and some are even published in books. Joan lives in Vancouver. She has a BA and a teaching diploma from UBC. For many years Joan worked as a library clerk at UBC, and since 1984 she has been a part time teacher. Joan sometimes acts in community theater, she reads a lot and enjoys live theater, ballet, walking in parks, and traveling to other countries

### **About the Writing**

*Bagels Come Home* is fiction, but the character of Bagels was based on a dog owned by Joan's mother-in-law. His name was Ajax. Ajax was an escape artist. Turn your back for a second and he was gone. Ajax was also expelled from puppy preschool. He just couldn't do as he was told. Ajax was a Sheltie. Shelties are usually small, but Ajax was bigger than most. One day Joan saw her mother-in-law taking Ajax for a walk. Ajax saw a squirrel and began to run so fast that it looked as if her mother-in-law was flying through the air holding on to the leash. Joan began asking other people to tell her their dog stories. That's how Bagels was born. One of Joan's friends owns a whippet.

One day the whippet was chased in a park by a German Shepherd. The German Shepherd collapsed in a heap. He couldn't catch the whippet. That became inspiration for a scene in the book. Joan's biggest challenge was that she had so many stories (some were true and some she made up) they wouldn't all fit in one book.

### **Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections**

#### *Prereading Ideas*

Do most people know how much work it takes to care for a pet? If you wanted a dog, would you get a purebred or would you take your chances and go to the shelter? Have you ever had a pet that got into trouble? Did it eat all the wrong things? Did it disobey? Did it make you laugh? Do you think you would make a good pet owner? What qualities do you have that would make you a good pet owner? For example, are you patient?

#### *Classroom Discussion Questions*

1. Does a pet, or a person, have to be perfect for you to love it/him/her?
2. Do you have responsibilities—taking care of your room, feeding and walking a dog, or throwing out the garbage?
3. What's a good age to start having responsibilities?

#### *Suggested Activities*

1. Visit an animal shelter or invite someone from a shelter to bring pets to the classroom.
2. Create a radio play based on the scene where the family is at the shelter picking a dog. Use sound effects.
3. Using students to play the animals, act out one of the scenes at Puppy Preschool.
4. Act out a scene from the book using puppets.
5. Using your imagination, draw a picture of one of the other dogs from the Marpole Shelter. For example, what do you think a German Shepherd/corgi would look like? Or a Great Dane/dalmation?

#### **Websites of Interest**

[www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/adopting-shelter-dog](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/adopting-shelter-dog)  
[www.sPCA.bc.ca/branches/vancouver/adoption](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/branches/vancouver/adoption)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_Russell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Russell)  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whippet>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shetland\\_Sheepdog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shetland_Sheepdog)  
[www.humanesociety.com/index.php/donate](http://www.humanesociety.com/index.php/donate)

#### **Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers**

*Can Hens Give Milk?* (Picturebook)

**Awards and Reviews**

*Awards for Can Hens Give Milk?:*

Chocolate Lily Award nominee

Washington Children's Choice Award

*Review for Can Hens Give Milk?:*

“The tone of Joan Betty Stuchner’s tale is cheerful, but the delivery is appropriately straight-faced. The effect is gently teasing but never unkind. Joe Weissmann’s expressive illustrations complement this lighthearted style and paint a comic portrait of Schlomo and his family... There will be ample pleasure in predicting the outcome of the family’s antics or just enjoying this simple tale that celebrates silliness.”

—*Quill & Quire*