



Love of Dogs, Drawing Turns Former Trainer into Cartoonist



We have all experienced the humorous side of our pets, and for one dog behavior therapist, he's capturing those moments with ink and pen. Jeroen van Rossum of The Netherlands is a dog behavior therapist and former dog trainer who admits he became crazy about dogs at first sight of one. He's

been drawing since he could hold a pencil, and now he's put both of those loves together for his weekly cartoon on Facebook called Dogs Don't Whisper.

He became an instructor in a dog school about 17 years ago, and then a few years later studied to be a dog behavior therapist. He obtained diplomas at the Van Hall Institute, Dutch Dog Instructors Society (O&O), and Cursuscentrum Barneveld, a leader in animal care education and courses, all in the Netherlands. He later joined a team of teachers where dog welfare was of paramount importance relying on and behavioral observation and interpretation. He trained future dog school instructors and worked as an internship supervisor for behavioral therapists in training.

"Over the years I've seen hundreds of dogs with all kinds of behavior(al problems) in the dog schools where I worked and at their

homes," van Rossum stated in an email. "Nowadays I don't teach anymore but still help an occasional problem dog with the behaviors of its people."

Thanks to that knowledge and his own "phenomenal" Belgian Shepherds, van Rossum began to understand how life looks through dogs' eyes.

"Because of the numerous typical and funny situations I experienced with all of those dogs over the years, I wanted to make a comic strip about them for a long time, but... never had the time to do it," he wrote. Although he still doesn't have the time, van Rossum decided to ignore that detail and he finally started his comic strip in February.

Dogs Don't Whisper features different dogs every week. "Sometimes it's pure fantasy, sometimes it's close to reality and in a few cases, it's literally what happened in real life," van Rossum explained. "My goal is to make people smile, and, from time to time, show them a little bit about that dog's point of view along the way.

The Dogs Don't Whisper comics are published on a few social media platforms like Facebook and Tumblr. See www.dogsdontwhisper.com for more information.