

"Buddy's World"  
By: Sean Simmons

It was 2006, Montgomery, AL. Buddy, a big, fluffy german shepherd, was trying to survive a particularly cold November day, at least until his owner Justin came home from work.

All of a sudden, Buddy's friend Max, a Labrador retriever, popped up over the fence. "So, owner got you tied up again, eh?" Max said. "That's why I'm a stray – no having to tie up loose ends." The little dog laughed, just as Tom the boxer dog, neighborhood bully, showed up. "Uh oh...gotta go." Max exclaimed. "I still owe him five kibble bits." With that, he left away, leaving Buddy alone with Tom.

"Well, well, well, what do we have here?" Tom said, looking at buddy. "Normally, I'd say I have something better to do." Buddy relaxed. "But I don't, so looks like it's beat-up time!" Buddy tensed and waited for the scratch.

But just then, a parade of chew-toys flew through the air, bonking Tom and sending him yelping home. Along the way, he met Max and growled "You still owe me five kibble bits!" Max responded with "Cheapskate!" and kicked his tail, sending Tom to his doghouse.

"Thanks for helping me out there." Buddy told Max. "Aw, what are friends for?" Max replied. Just then, Justin came home. "Aw, poor little stray." He said, picking Max up. "Do you wanna love with me?" Max responded with, "Well, maybe it's time to try living in captivity!"

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