

HELP WANTED: HUNDEFRÄULEIN

Hale but elderly, self-described “hundemütter” requires a full-time, live-in dog-nanny/housekeeper/amanuensis “for the duration.”*

The successful candidate will enjoy her own room in the oddly luxurious Dog House; board (often quite exotic); use of the doggie car (currently a Toyota wagon with a strange smell); the chance to hobnob with an eclectic cross-section of the human race; many dinners *tête-à-tête* with said hundemütter.

The successful candidate should be able to

- ***Care for up to 12 Dogs (usually 4 or 5)***: never leave them alone for more than five (5) hours; regulate their finicky gluttony; bathe them, once every three months or twice weekly (depending on skin conditions); clean up various effluvia; raise bird-brained puppies; and develop other skills at need, as they grow from toddlers to geriatric toddlers.

- ***Maintain the Dog House*** free of flies; vacuum daily; shop for human, canine, and cleaning supplies; ruthlessly discard exotic leftovers; vacuum the car weekly; plant and maintain a greenhouse; shoehorn new cookware into the galley; vacuum water from the basement semi-annually; wash dishes; be a crazy-glue virtuoso; shop for a vacuum every two years, etc. at need.

* of her life.

- **Drive** to the grocery store, university, airport; to hotels to pick up strange men, like the Algerian freedom-fighter-turned-Euro-bureaucrat or the World Bank's token hippie-on-staff; to the veterinarian for scheduled and emergency visits (e.g., porcupine encounters, canine aggression [rare]).

- **Undertake** longer trips at need (e.g., to New York City to return a rental car).

- **Enjoy Company:** help cater parties of up to 50 guests and varying degrees of formality; know how the plumber, pool guy, lawn guy, and handyman each take their coffee and/or what kind of beer to stock (Moosehead, Keiths); find and train unterhundenfräulein....

- **Enjoy solitude with dogs** for the third to half of each year when the hundemütter is gallivanting around the as-yet unsaved world.

- **Learn** the difference between single malt and blend; rudiments of oceanography; a bit about Modern German literature; how to make a good salad dressing and a Fantastic Martini; how slowly dogs decline and how quickly they die.

*Interested strays should arrange to be abandoned
along the rocky shore at Sambro Head.*