

Stevie Nicks joins Calgaros

Pete Calgaro couldn't believe his luck when Áine told him that Stevie Nicks was up for adoption. “She will be an amazing addition to our family band,” said Pete, anticipating a special guest at his annual winter concert of meditative music.

Upon learning that Miss Nicks was, in fact, a stray Pomeranian mix in need of a home, he was much less enthusiastic. However, Áine insisted they meet the tiny stray who had been through so much in her indeterminate-length life.

“But Trax likes being an only dog,” he protested. Áine promised that Trax would have final approval of any new family members. She had seen firsthand how listless he had become after his brother Kavik passed away.

As it turned out, the foster taking care of Stevie had put Áine's application at the top – because she had briefly met the Calgaros and their beloved Ludwig von Happy more than 10 years previously.



Adopt Stevie Nicks on Petfinder
[petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com)

Áine's first glimpse of Stevie Nicks

The addition was meant to be. Stevie Nicks' transition into the family was the easiest they'd ever experienced. She loves going places, and nothing gives her more joy than the prospect of walk outside. (Except maybe a belly rub.)

Stevie Nicks has completely won Pete over, and she adores Pete right back. Áine has been heard whispering in Stevie's ear, “Remember, if it were up to that one, you wouldn't be living here. So give Mama some love.” 🧀

Inside:

- odd sensations!
- strange lands!
- dogs, dogs, dogs!

Previously unexplored lands beckon

Rachel Calgaro knew that she needed to find a new place to live. The rental house in Golden Valley, MN, was no longer meeting her needs, so she began researching alternatives.

“No way was I going to be able to buy a home, and the rental market wasn’t great, either,” she reported. Fortunately, a new opportunity arose: since Rachel worked remotely, why not relocate?

A friend had space in a large duplex, and the rent would be far less than what Rachel had previously been paying. The catch: it was located in a faraway land never explored by any Calgaros. A place called New Hampshire.

Bravely, Rachel downsized her possessions and – with her new housemates – drove day and night through such places as Ohio and Vermont to reach this exotic destination.

“I really like it here,” she said. “As a resident of New England, I have downloaded the Dunkin’ app and have earned tons of points from my coffee drive-throughs with Deadpool.”



Fun fact: New Hampshire has an ocean front!

She even had the opportunity to visit the neighboring state of Maine and meet with several of her ForgeFX work colleagues.

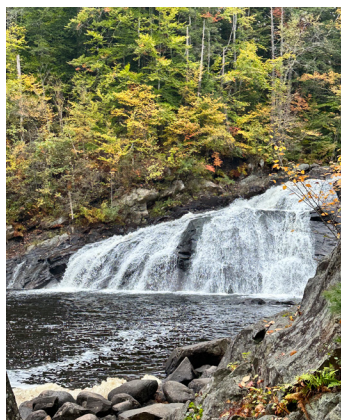
Pete and Áine flew out for a visit in October so they could confirm that New Hampshire indeed exists. They took their granddog on several outings, and made a weekend visit north to drive up a mountain and enjoy a few hours in snow. Rachel’s car earned a “I drove to the top of Mount Washington” bumper sticker. Unfortunately, Deadpool received no such recognition for his triumphant poop at the summit. 🧀



Thankfully, Rachel’s car survived the trip up the mountain.



Peter was represented on the trip by Áine’s new tattoo in his honor: “l’ours polaire” AKA “the polar bear.”



Of course waterfalls were involved.

Woman overcomes odd sensations

‘You’ve got to hand it to her,’ experts say

A year ago, Áine Calgaro was regularly experiencing a strange sensation at random times: her hands would go completely numb and then tingle uncomfortably.

This complicated her day-to-day life at a computer keyboard, creating various graphics, prose, and so on for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation.

Driving and sleeping were also difficult because of the need to constantly shake her hands into consciousness.

Fortunately, Pete’s sister Francie, who is a physicians assistant at Orthollinois, suggested Áine get evaluated for carpal tunnel syndrome. Sure enough, that was the issue, and soon she was scheduled for surgery – one hand at a time.

Áine was thrilled to be awake for the procedures but unfortunately did not

get to watch. Throughout the several-month follow-up and healing process, she somehow kept up with her workload and managed not to open up her stitches.



Improved digital access!

Later in the year, Áine was sent to the ER for chest pain that she knew was acid reflux – which was confirmed after 7 hours in the waiting room. As a result, she had her first-ever endoscopy and this time was happy to be given enough drugs to be made blissfully unaware of the entire procedure.

Agging: the adventure continues! 🧀

Area man maintains status quo, beard

Peter Calgaro IV continues to assert that “nothing much” has happened to him over the course of the year.

With great surprise, his parents realized that Peter was the family member with the fewest surprises and mishaps in 2023.

He continues delivering sustenance – in the form of Milio’s sandwiches – to midday workers and other hungry Madisonians.

When he’s not working, his hobbies include relaxing, chilling, taking it easy, and leisure. This often includes online gaming with friends near and far, and engaging with his roommates.

In 2023, Peter also managed to achieve impressive personal growth. His beard has achieved a record length, although he has hinted at possibly trimming it in the new year. Various family members breathlessly await this possible new aesthetic development. 🧀



All dogs, all the time

The Calgaro canines offered amazing companionship and good cheer during 2023. It's a good thing, because they definitely caused a hit to the bank account.

At age 13, Trax hasn't experienced any seizures for the past year and a half, and his heart condition remains stable. This is thanks to a medication regimen that the Calgaros are better off pretending doesn't cost as much as a luxurious spa day every month.

Although Stevie Nicks had undergone several surgeries during her time with Albert's Pet Lounge animal shelter, she was spry and healthy until one weekend where she became lethargic and feverish. A battery of tests at the emergency clinic was inconclusive – and totaled \$1,200. (She's worth it and more, btw.) A few weeks of antibiotics for a suspected flare up of her Lyme, and she was back to her cheerful self.

Then, a few weeks after leaving New Hampshire, Pete and Áine received a

frantic call from Rachel – their granddog, Deadpool, was being treated for pancreatitis. Of course, they offered to cover whatever it cost to get him back to health. He only required one overnight, and his numbers continued to improve with medication and a bland diet.

The entire family hopes they can avoid emergency clinics for a good long while.

All three dogs continue to assume that car rides automatically lead to whipped cream in a cup. 🧀



Trax approves of his new sister. (Kavik's stroller is now used as seating for outdoor dining.)

Thankless labor soothed by music

To the surprise of his immediate family, Pete Calgaro's annual *Evening of Meditative Music* turned out to be as calming for him as it was for his grateful audience. This was no small feat, as Áine has long nicknamed the musical event *Freak Out Along With Pete as He Pulls This Thing Together*.

"Compared with my day-to-day work at Channel 15, planning a 2-hour concert and hauling carloads of equipment and instruments across town felt like relaxing downtime," he said.

In addition to his regular workload and special projects, at publication time he is working around the clock to finish editing *Sounds of the Season*, which airs Christmas Eve. Ho ho ho! 🧀

Find back issues of *Weekly World Cheese* at calgaros.com, and buy Pete's music (including his latest release) at petecalgaro.com!

He's also on Spotify, etc.!