

Coco the Huntress

Simply looking at our beautiful standard black and tan dachshund, Coco Chanel, one would never suspect she was a gifted and artful huntress of every sort of creature. Named for the iconic designer, our Coco is elegant, svelte and even has a white “tuxedo” like vest on her chest. If she were adorned with a pearl necklace, she would win the approval of the designer herself.

Coco is fast and sleek. When hunting, she is focused on her prey – whether it is a squirrel, mouse, rabbit, gopher, mocking bird or roadrunner. Most recently, we have had an invasion of tadpoles and frogs in our pond. Throughout the 16 years, I have lived in my home; I have never witnessed anything like this – probably due to the drought, relentless triple digit heat, and changing climate. There were little, tiny frogs around the entire pond, and all of my dogs have been mesmerized by this phenomenon. They watch in amazement as the frogs (in synchronized swimming fashion) leap one by one, side by side, into and swim in the pond. But our Coco has a system for catching the little critters. Stealthily she approaches the areas which feature the greatest number of frogs and plans her attack. She quietly steps into the pond knowing precisely when to attack so that she can actually grab two or three frogs at a time and devour them. The other dachshunds respect her prowess – they are no match for her. If they are lucky, they catch one or two of the frogs. They rejoice when they find little froggy skeletons and parade around the back yard with them. I know little about the digestive properties of frogs, but I can’t imagine that they are tasty treats.

Still, my dogs persevere. As the weather cools down, my dogs are friskier than ever playing games they haven’t played since last spring. Fall seems to be their favorite season – as it is mine. Their games and antics amuse me. But watching Coco go “a froggin” is so entertaining. Fortunately for the frogs, they are quickly growing in size and are being integrated into the pond community. Their Busby Berkley routine is quickly coming to an end. And, alas Ms. Coco will have to use her hunting abilities to capture other critters – mallards, geese, perhaps?