



When *JCK* senior editor **Jennifer Heebner** accidentally busted a tooth out of a dog's mouth, Revere Academy's Christine Dhein came to the rescue—not with veterinary advice but with a fangtastic jewelry design.

AN

INCONV



VENIENT

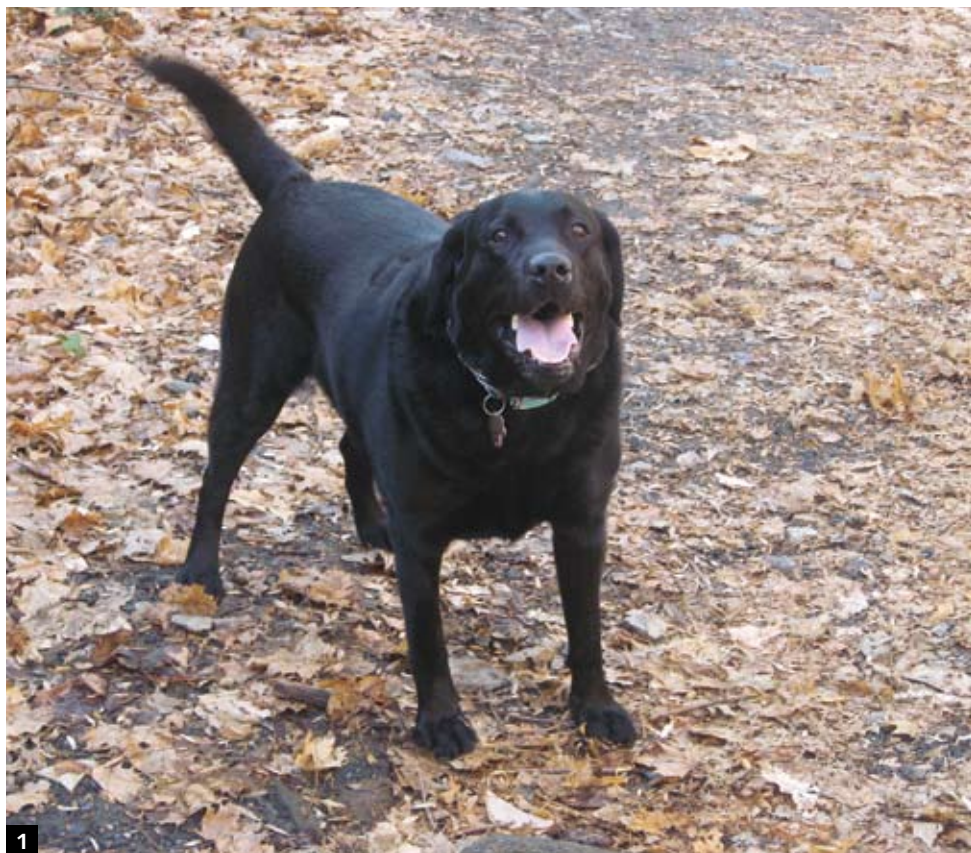
TOOTH

Know me, and you know that I adore animals. I have two cats and one dog, all of which are rescues, though my in-laws' golden retriever, Bonnie, is sort of my second dog. I suppose I also have a third dog, Murphy, a Labrador retriever who belongs to our next-door neighbors, Jeannie and Frank. I walk Murphy every weekend when I exercise my own Labrador/German-shepherd mix, Beast. Both dogs are young, close in age (Beast is 4, Murphy is 3), and highly energetic. When you have two large, young, male Labradors like these, you expect some drama (and some big veterinary bills) once in a while.

I take the dogs to a section of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia every weekend. We walk and play fetch with sticks that I toss into the Wissahickon Creek. While my Beast typically can't be bothered with such games—he prefers to sniff every rock and tree stump in the park—Murphy would fetch sticks all day if my arm didn't get tired. As unlikely as it sounds, I sometimes have trouble finding sticks to throw. On one such day, I threw rocks, which are abundant on the creek banks. I wasn't launching stones *at the dogs*, mind you, but in different directions so Murphy would race to the spots where they splashed into the water.

Unfortunately, energetic Murphy was faster than I thought, and turned to scout out a throw just as I tossed it, inadvertently catching the large pebble in his mouth. Ouch! Later that day, Murphy's top left fang—shaken loose by the momentum of the hit—had to be pulled.

But before anyone reports me to The Humane Society of the United States, please note that neither Murphy nor his owners (thankfully) hold a grudge against me. Murphy still howls for me every Saturday morning, letting me know he's ready for his romp in the woods, and his owners are still happy for me to walk him. To express my regret, I had Christine Dhein, assistant director at the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in San Francisco, make the tooth into a necklace. Dhein was my instructor during fabrication courses years ago, so I knew that she had the talent to create the piece, her most unusual to date.



1



2



3

[1] Murphy is a playful Labrador retriever that lives next door to *JCK* senior editor Jennifer Heebner. She walks Murphy every weekend along with her own dog, Beast. **[2]** The culprit in the crime: a rock from the banks of the Wissahickon Creek in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. **[3]** This fang used to be in Murphy's mouth, before it was accidentally knocked out.

“When Jennifer first told me about her idea to create a pendant from a dog tooth, it definitely took me by surprise,” says Dhein.

But Dhein went ahead with the commission and sketched four different designs—all with the sterling silver accents and black rubber cord that I requested. To make an ideal piece, she considered function, aesthetics, and storytelling. “I wanted to show off the tooth as much as possible because it is the story,” she explains. “The design was intended as a showcase for the tooth, and something to spark conversation between pet owners.”

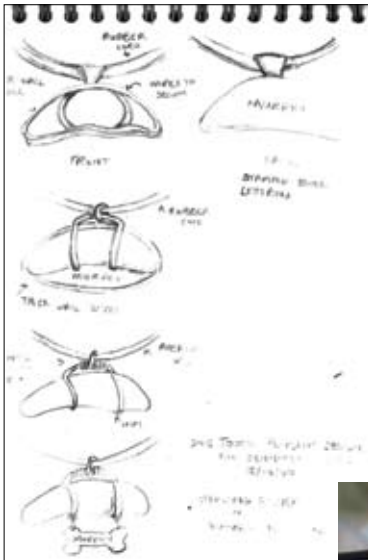
I selected the least complicated style. The result: The owners love the necklace, which garners lots of comments at the elementary school where Jeannie teaches. As for Murphy, well, he cares nothing about the necklace and only that I continue to walk him. ■

Editor’s note: Reach Christine Dhein at (415) 391-4179.



Beast [left] relaxes during a woods outing, while Murphy looks for sticks. Murphy is constantly in motion, while Beast is a more laid back. By understanding their different personalities, others might better comprehend how Murphy was hit.

Christine Dhein in a Sirius Mood



[Left] A page from the sketchbook of Christine Dhein, assistant director of Revere Academy, San Francisco, reveals her ideas for a necklace featuring a dog’s tooth.

[Below] The final necklace style is simple, and exactly what this editor ordered: the tooth wire-wrapped in sterling silver on a rubber cord.



The following note is an e-mail from Christine Dhein, assistant director, Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts, San Francisco, to Jennifer Heebner, *JCK* senior editor and amateur dentist. Dhein offers options for necklaces featuring Murphy’s lost tooth.

Hi Jen!

Attached is a scanned page from my notebook with four different ideas for pendant designs. The first two are more complex, and, therefore, more labor intensive. The simplest fabrication is the third. All designs are planned for sterling silver with a rubber neck cable.

Let me know which style you prefer. This is definitely the most unusual design request I’ve ever had!

Best, Christine

1) A thick wall bezel surrounds the tooth with two wires on top to hold it in place.

2) A thick wall bezel surrounds the pendant, but not on the bottom, where two wires secure the tooth in place. Below the tooth “Murphy” is stamped with block letters into the base plate.

3) The tooth is wrapped with a wire, which also creates the bale.

4) This design is the same as No. 3, but with a hanging bone tag. “Murphy” is stamped with block letters into bone.