

Rider's Rescues  
S01E05 - Gifts

Written by

Oscar Calhoun

Director

Tom McPhee

Host

Mark Rider

FADE IN:

EXT. DRIVEWAY GATE - DAWN

Intro music plays.

As the sun rises and begins to shine on the Rider's Ranch sign, brief flashes of animals being rescued fade in and out, only a few seconds each.

Intro music fades. RIDER walks out of the driveway, into frame.

Looks into camera. Surprised to see us there.

Waves hello. Waves us back toward house, inviting us in.

Camera moves toward house.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rider carries a basket of party supplies - wrapping paper, party hats, balloons, etc. into the kitchen. Starts rummaging through it.

Moose and the three pups watch him. Cocking head to the side.

MOOSE

Hey, Rider ... what's all that stuff for?

Rider lays out the wrapping party.

RIDER

For the birthday party, duh!

MOOSE

Birthday party...?

The pups look at each other. At Moose.

DEMI

Birthday party?

DELILAH

Whose birthday party?

DIXIE

Not my birthday party. I'm not even one yet!

Moose realizes it.

MOOSE

It's Rocky Valentine's birthday! How could I forget? It's right there in his name!

DELILAH

Rocky the goat?

DIXIE

It's Rocky's birthday?

DEMI

(gasp)

We didn't get him anything!

Moose and the pups all panic for a moment.

Rider shakes his head.

RIDER

Relax, guys. It's okay. Sometimes just being there for somebody can be the best gift of all. Just ask Tayo...

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

[Tayo clip]

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rider tries to pet Moose and the pups all at the same time.

RIDER

See? Just being there is enough, right guys?

The dogs look at each other, uncertain.

RIDER

Alright. I'm going to go get some of these decorations set up. You be good now.

Rider heads out into the back yard.

Dogs quiet for a moment.

DIXIE

We've got to get him something!

DEMI

There's no time! What can we get?

DIXIE

We could bake a cake ... a goat treat cake!

DELILAH

What's in a goat treat cake?

DIXIE

I don't know!

DEMI

Well what do goats like to eat?

MOOSE

They're goats. They eat *anything*.

DEMI

You heard him, girls! Let's go get *anything*!

DIXIE

Yeah!

DELILAH

Yeah!

All three pups run off in separate directions.

Moose looks around.

MOOSE

Even *I* know this is a bad idea...

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A parody of a cooking show begins.

DEANNA

Hi, and welcome to *Cooking with Pups*!  
Today, we're making a goat treat cake.

It starts sensibly enough, with a big mixing bowl. Adding flour. Adding eggs. Adding milk. Etc.

But then things get worse as Moose and the pups bring more and more 'ingredients' to add.

A whole banana, peeled. Into the bowl, mix it in.

Also, the banana peel. Into the bowl, mix it in.

A bottle of ketchup. Into the bowl, mix it in.

An old, dirty sock from under the couch. Into the bowl, mix it in.

A mirror-hanging car air freshener tree. Into the bowl, mix it in.

Emerson's homework. Into the bowl, mix it in.

A half-chewed rubber dog toy. Into the bowl, mix it in.

An entire cell phone. (An old obsolete or broken one, but it's a setup for Rider asking where his phone is later, so it's "Rider's phone".) Into the bowl, mix it in.

The whole mix gets poured into a baking pan.

DEANNA

There. Now we just need to bake for forty-five minutes, and it's all done!

The baking pan goes into the oven.

MOOSE

(to the pups)

I'm not too sure about some of those ingredients you brought...

DEMI

You said goats eat anything!

DELILAH

It's gonna be great!

DIXIE

Best goat treat cake ever!

MOOSE

Okay...

Rider returns from the back yard.

RIDER

Alright, the party's almost ready...

(sniffs the air)

Somebody's cooking?

DEMI

We're baking a goat treat cake!

Rider looks skeptical.

RIDER

You pups are *baking*?

MOOSE  
With a little help.

Rider still looks pretty unsure about this whole thing.

RIDER  
You know, there are bad gifts too  
sometimes.

DIXIE  
Huh? How could there be a bad gift?

DELILAH  
I always like gifts!

RIDER  
Well, like when somebody 'gives' you  
a dog by abandoning her at your place  
in the middle of the night...

EXT. DOG SHELTER - NIGHT

["Pregnant Dog Dumped by Coward at Midnight" clip]

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Moose and the pups look shocked and/or angry.

DEMI  
That's a bad, bad gift!

RIDER  
Well, a bad way to give a gift, I  
guess. But the actual 'gift' - the  
dog herself - was really nice.

MOOSE  
But how could they do something like  
that? Don't they care about her?

Rider shrugs.

RIDER  
Well, some people just don't think of  
dogs the same way that--

*DING!* The oven timer goes off.

DELILAH  
The goat treat cake!

DIXIE  
The goat treat cake!

RIDER

The *what?*

The pups all run to the oven.

Rider shoos them away.

RIDER

Careful, careful! Don't burn yourselves. Let me do it.

He gets hot pads and pulls out the baking pan, with the completed goat treat cake. (Off camera, it's been replaced with an actually wholesome cake made with goat-safe ingredients, but similar-looking, and in the same pan.)

DIXIE

Let me try it!

DELILAH

No, me first!

Rider sets it on the counter.

RIDER

Hey, cool it! You have to let the cake cool down before you try and eat it.

MOOSE

And it's for Rocky and the goats, *remember?*

DIXIE

Oh yeah...

DELILAH

Can we still try it, though?

MOOSE

You still want to eat that, after seeing what you put into it?

DEMI

Yeah!

Moose looks up at Rider.

MOOSE

Call a dog psychologist. These pups are crazy.

RIDER

You were too, when you were just a puppy.

MOOSE

Nope. I was always old and dignified.  
Ever since I was born.

EXT. GOAT PEN - DAY

Everybody - goats, horses, dogs, Rider, Emerson, and all - are out in and around the goat pen, all wearing party hats, all celebrating Rocky's birthday.

Unopened gifts, balloons, *actual* cake, the works.

The goats are riled up, chasing each other around and headbutting. The dogs watch intently from outside the fence.

RIDER

Okay, who's ready for some presents?

Rocky jumps up on top of one of the platforms in the goat pen.

ROCKY

Presents? *Finally!* Let's do it!

DEMI

Ooh! Ooh! Do ours first!

DIXIE

Yeah, do ours first!

DELILAH

Goat treat cake!

RIDER

Okay, okay! Settle down.

He starts heading toward the house.

RIDER

Come on, Moose. Wanna help?

EXT. GOAT PEN - LATER

Rider and Moose return, Rider holding the goat treat cake on a platter.

He brings it into the goat pen. All four dogs watch intently.

RIDER

Okay goaties, have at it!



Sets it down for them, in front of Rocky.

MOOSE  
That's from me and the pups. It's a  
goat treat cake!

The goats sniff it. Not digging in yet.

MOOSE  
Try it!

ROCKY  
... Nope!

PENELOPE  
Nope!

SIG LUNA  
Nope! Nope!

Rider shrugs helplessly.

DEMI  
Why won't they eat it?

MOOSE  
Who ever heard of *picky goats*?

DIXIE  
It's not fair!

DELILAH  
We worked really hard on that!

MOOSE  
It's probably for the best, anyway.  
I'm not sure if the stuff we put in  
there is good for even goats to  
eat...

The Pony Express sound whinnies over the back yard.

RIDER  
Hey, it's the Pony Express! Be back  
in a minute, goaties!

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

The horses DALLAS and MOUSE zoom out through the gate  
between front and back yard.

Rider races them in his golf cart.

RIDER  
Come on, Mouse! Come on Dallas!

They zoom by in afterburner mode.

RIDER  
We've got mail to check!

EXT. HORSE STALLS - DAY

The horses run into their two stalls, eager to check their mail. Both still wearing their party hats, though maybe falling sideways by now. Sniffing at a large, colorful mailbox between the two stalls.

Rider stops nearby.

RIDER  
Alright, girls - let's see what we've got in the horsey mail today!

MOUSE  
Where's it from, Rider?

DALLAS  
Where's it from? Where's it from?

RIDER  
Hold your horses, ladies!

RIDER  
It's from... Portland, Oregon!

Opens the envelope. Pulls out a video transition to:

INT. PORTLAND HOME - DAY

Hand-shot cellphone video.

Twin boys, JACOB and STAN sit on a threadbare couch on either side of a tiny chihuahua, PEANUT.

JACOB  
Hi, I'm Jacob!

STAN  
And I'm Stan!

JACOB  
And this is Peanut!

STAN  
And this is Peanut!

STAN

When we went to the shelter, our mom  
said we had to pick a small dog.

JACOB

So we picked the smallest dog EVER!

Stan picks up Peanut.

STAN

He's so tiny!

EXT. HORSE STALLS - DAY

Fade back to Rider, folding the letter back up.

MOUSE

Hi, Jacob!

DALLAS

Hi, Stan!

RIDER

Hi, Peanut!

Turns to camera.

RIDER

Thanks for sending that! And  
remember, if you guys at home want to  
send a letter about your rescued pet,  
just wait for the link at the end of  
the show to see how!

Turns back toward the horses.

RIDER

So, how'd you like that letter?

Horses looking excited and happy. Mouse's party hat is about  
to fall off. Rider fixes it.

EXT. GOAT PEN - DAY

Rider and the horses return to the goat pen.

The goat treat cake still hasn't been eaten.

DEMI

They won't eat it.

DELILAH

If the goats made *me* a cake, I'd eat it!

RIDER

Easy there... I'm pretty sure if these goats made a cake, you *definitely* shouldn't eat it.

DIXIE

Make them eat it!

RIDER

I can't. You can lead a goat to treats, but you can't make him eat.

MOOSE

Well if they're not going to eat it, what are they going to do with it?

RIDER

Let's ask them.

(to goats)

What should we do with it?

ALL THE GOATS

BURN IT! BURN IT!

DIXIE

What?

DELILAH

They're crazy!

RIDER

Well, it's *their* gift now. If that's what they want... Let me call a few friends over first, though, just to be safe.

EXT. BURN PILE - EVENING

The burn pile is all ready to go, with everyone gathered around.

Nearby, a few FIREFIGHTERS stand watch by their fire truck.

Emerson and the pups are with them, checking out the cool fire truck.

FIREFIGHTER

That's right. It's always a good idea to check with your local fire department before you decide to burn anything. We can help in case of anything...

Rider dumps a bunch of gasoline on the burn pile. (As much as the firefighters will let you get away with.)

FIREFIGHTER

(disapprovingly)

...In case of anything like *that*.

EMERSON

Are we ready to light it up?

RIDER

Just need *one* more thing.

He gets the goat treat cake and adds it to the top of the pile.

RIDER

Now we're ready.

Hands Emerson a long stick with a match taped to the end.

RIDER

You want to do it?

EMERSON

Yeah!

The match is lit.

Emerson lights the fire, with as spectacular a *whoosh* as possible.

The whole thing - and the goat treat cake - goes up in flames.

DEMI

Aw, now our cake's getting overcooked!

She looks around to either side. No other pups there.

DEMI

Hey, where'd you--?

Finds Dixie and Delilah getting held and petted by the firefighters.

DEMI  
Hey! Save some for me!

Runs toward them.

Meanwhile, Rider and Moose watch the fire.

MOOSE  
I still can't believe they wouldn't  
even try to eat it...

Rider shrugs.

RIDER  
Goats are weird sometimes. I guess if  
this is what makes them happy then at  
least your gift is making them happy?  
So it's a success then.

MOOSE  
It's still weird. Who ever heard of  
picky goats?

EXT. BURN PILE - LATER

Rider comes and collects the pups from the firefighters.

RIDER  
Okay, okay. Bedtime for you pups.

DIXIE  
Aw, but the fire's still going!

RIDER  
Rules are rules, little puppies...

DIXIE  
Aw...

RIDER  
But you *do* still get your bedtime  
story.

DEMI  
Yay!

DELILAH  
Yay!

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - EVENING

Rider settles in next to the pups in their bed.

RIDER

You know, you pups aren't the only ones whose gifts weren't appreciated at first.

Rider holds up a big prop book with Potendogs artwork on the cover, along with the title.

RIDER

Wonseok tried to bring treats for his new dog friends, but at least for now, they only wanted their special PotenDog food...

Opens the book up to a page with pictures (screencaps) of Potendogs animation.

INT. WONSEOK'S APARTMENT - DAY

[PotenDogs clip of when Wonseok tried to offer all the PotenDogs regular dog treats and they refused at first ... but gradually started to love them.]

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - EVENING

The pups are sleeping. Rider closes the book.

RIDER

Goodnight, puppies.

EXT. BURN PILE - EVENING

The fire is burning low.

Rider comes back to Moose's side just in time to see the firefighters turn on their hose and put out the last glowing embers.

Emerson is very excited about that. (Maybe they even let him use the hose some.)

For a moment, Rider and Moose just watch.

Then Rider looks over at Moose.

RIDER

Um, Moose...

Moose looks up.

RIDER  
Have you seen my phone? I've been  
looking for it everywhere.

Moose looks guilty.

Rider looks suspicious.

RIDER  
Was my phone in that goat treat cake?

Pause.

MOOSE  
*Maybe...*

Rider exhaustedly facepalms.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Outro: tranquil music plays as the pups sleep soundly in  
their dog bed.

RIDER (V.O.)  
(softly, to go with  
the mood)  
Be sure to come see us next time at  
the Rider Family Ranch - 'Cus we're  
going to meet the very last white  
rhinos, and we're finding out what  
happened to some missing tigers!

Credits, acknowledgements, and links to get involved in  
different charities or adoptions/rescues scroll by.