



**May 12, 2018**

**Dear Oona,**

**How do I keep my human from making squeaking noises when I lean on them? I want to be close but, frankly, I'm concerned about them giving out on me.**

**Sue**

**Dear Sue:**

It's true, humans are a frail bunch, especially the older ones, but relax, they can (usually) take it. We wolfhounds tend to be a touchy-feely bunch and The Wolfhound Lean is our way of saying, "Hi there, I adore you, you crazy human."

True, sometimes we practically swoon, we're so happy to be with them. But, of course, that's 160 or so pounds of swoon. Sometimes they stagger. Sometimes they lurch straight into a wall. When I sit on my old guy, he makes those same squeaking noises! I just wiggle my bottom to show my enthusiasm for his old person song. Then he squeaks some more! I'd howl along but he *really* frowns on that when he's thrashing around back there.

I guess the best thing for you to do is train your human, Sue. Don't fall into a pattern with The Lean. Stop making goo-goo eyes at them right before you do it. Anytime, any place, just let it go. True, there may be the occasional incident with them falling into a bush or over a guard rail but those are all teachable moments. Pretty soon they'll up their game, develop sharper reflexes and be able to brace in a heartbeat. Or, you know, keep going into those bushes.

And who knows? Maybe they'll understand and get into the moment. Maybe they'll understand that the Wolfhound Lean is our way of embracing them. Maybe they'll lean back. The best ones do. Then just soak in the love and give a big wolfhound sigh....

Love, Oona

*Got a question? Send it to **bob@thewildstare.com** and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.*