

## TALE OF THE PANTHER:

An old Bassett Hound by the name of Murphy starts chasing rabbits up on Panther Peak and before long discovers that she's lost. Wandering about, she notices a panther heading rapidly in her direction with the intention of having lunch. Murphy thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep trouble now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, she immediately settles down to chew on the bones with her back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, Murphy exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him, and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!" says the panther, "That was close! That old Bassett Hound nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes. The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans, and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!" Now, Murphy sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" but instead of running, the dog sits down with her back to her attackers, pretending she hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, Murphy says ... "Where's that damn squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

**Moral of this story ... Don't mess with the old dogs ... Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery; Tenacity only comes with age and experience.**



Submitted by Bill Hill 3/2021