

# The Sky

## is the Limit for Juno

BY JAY ROODE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SKYHAWK PHOTOGRAPHY



*Jay Roode and Juno at Baragwanath airfield in Gauteng*

**A**s keen travellers and aviators, we refrained from getting a dog for many years as we felt that it would be unfair to leave a dog without loving human interaction during our long absences. Recently, however, we started feeling that perhaps we could include a dog in our lifestyle and began looking for a puppy.

We decided to adopt a dog from a shelter as we'd both grown up with

mixed breed "pavement specials" and they'd brought much love and laughter into our homes with their quirky personalities and undying loyalty.

Strangely, once the decision to adopt had been made, we contacted two SPCAs and Kitty and Puppy Haven over the course of the next few weeks but none of them had a female, small-to-medium-breed puppy available. I was beginning to despair when I received an enthusiastic call from my father, who had spotted a puppy in a

car park outside a factory in the small village of Volksrust on the border of KwaZulu-Natal.

She was the only puppy left alive from a recent litter, the others having regrettably died from being run over or squashed under piles of lumber. My parents immediately picked up the puppy and took her through to the Volksrust vet where she was vaccinated and treated for fleas, worms, ringworm and mange. She was then taken back to my parent's little farmhouse in Wakkerstroom and safely ensconced in the kitchen, in front of the AGA stove in a basket all of her own.

A couple of days later we drove down from Johannesburg to pick her up and fell in love with her immediately. She was black from head to toe and so fluffy around the neck that she resembled a black bear cub.

### HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Two months later she has put on 4kgs and has a zest for life that has everyone smiling. We decided to get her used to flying as soon as possible and she already has four flights under her belt. She is a born aviator and is completely unperturbed by it all; in fact, she is a dab hand at helping us tie down the aircraft!

The image above shows her on her maiden voyage – a 20-minute flight from Baragwanath airfield to Pitlamatla airfield on the Vaal Dam. After some initial excitement with take-off she settled down and had a good snooze on the back seat. She spent the

"In times of joy, all of us wished we possessed a tail we could wag."

— W.H. AUDEN




rest of the day chasing mongoose, being perplexed with her first Ostrich sighting, paddling in the dam and licking out the potjie pot. What a life!

Her courageous attitude to all the new experiences she has had to go through already in her little life has us

in absolute awe.

Her name is Juno Andromeda Skydog and she has become our companion, friend and a fearless aviator. She has added a whole other aspect to our grand ambition to photograph Southern Africa from above, and we are

enjoying taking her along on all our flying expeditions. The only thing I cannot believe is that we waited this long to make the decision to get her.

To follow Juno's journey, please visit our website and blog [www.skyhawkphotography.com](http://www.skyhawkphotography.com) 

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