

On this last day of 2018, we thought it would be a good time to solve a small problem we've experienced lately. For some reason, the black and white border collie, Kate, has decided that—if nobody is looking—it is acceptable to jump up on our bed and relax comfortably. Most of the time, one of us has an eye on her, and to be fair, she doesn't try it all the time. Often, she lies on a rug under a straight chair next to the bed. But, when the mood strikes her, she quietly makes her move, and we don't always hear her in time to thwart her actions.

So, today, we decided to buy her a nice, soft dog bed. Blue does not need one. She has two preferred places to lie down. Sometimes, she is on the sheepskin next to the cook stove. It is a little, raised niche where she feels quite secure. At other times, she is more likely to lie on the cotton rag rug under the round oak table. The carved "lion head" legs of the table that protrude from the center pillar are just far enough apart for her to curl up comfortably with her head on one of the oaken lion heads. She doesn't need a bed.

We brought home a soft, pillowy dog bed and laid it next to our bed, thinking Kate would be very grateful. Runo urged her to try it out, and she did, for about thirty seconds. Blue tested the dog bed, too, and she stayed longer, but it wasn't her choice. She had already established her territory by the stove and under the table.

So, might Kate eventually use the bed? We hope so, but there are complications, as the following pictures point out. Happy New Year!



