

The Tijuana Dog

By Walter S. Zapotoczny Jr.

Pepe the dog was born in Tijuana, Mexico. He was a skinny dog. He and his friends roamed the streets looking for food. Pepe was always looking across the border at the bright lights of San Ysidro wondering what it was like there. One day, as he and his friends were hanging around the border crossing checkpoint, he saw a pickup truck with some blankets in the bed. He told his friends he was going to see what it was like on the other side. He jumped into the truck and hid under the blankets. The boarder agents didn't find him and he was in the United States. He rode in the back until the truck came to a stop at a nice house in town with a nice green yard. The family in the truck heard Pepe squirming. They felt sorry for him and decided to keep him. They feed Pepe very well, took him to the doctor, and made a place for him in their home. Pepe was living the good life that he had dreamed of. He had rules that he had to follow though. There was no barking because the neighbors would complain. He could only do his business at certain places. He could not walk on the neighbor's grass. Pepe thought that following these rules was worth it though. After all, he was well feed and healthy. After a while, he started to look at the lights of Tijuana and wonder about the friends he left behind. There was something about those lights that kept calling him. He decided to try to get across the border to visit his old neighborhood. While the border guards were looking the other way, Pepe made his way under the fence and back into Tijuana. He went to his old neighborhood and found his friends. He went up to them and asked them how they had been. None of his old friends recognized Pepe. When he told them who he was they said, "You are fat and healthy looking. Why have you come back here? You had it made in America." Pepe told them, "I came back to bark."