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Guru Guru Pon-Chan #2by [Kat Avila](#)

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Publisher**Del Rey**<http://www.delreymanga.com>**Credits**

Writer: Satomi Ikezawa

Artist: Satomi Ikezawa

Distributor: Del Rey

Translator: Douglas Varenas

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Grade: 7

Yuka-chan ... I want you to have a great Christmas with Mirai-kun, was Ponta's thinking as she tearfully buried the large rawhide bone she had gotten for their neighbor Mirai Iwaki, the teenaged boy both she and her owner Yuka Koizumi are in love with. After all, she's a yellow Labrador retriever and he's human. As a dog, her loyalties lie first with her owner. But Yuka isn't heartless, and this is where volume 2 starts.

Ponta has the ability to become a human girl thanks to Grandpa Koizumi's fantastic invention, the Guru Guru Bone. Whenever Pon-chan kisses it, she can transform into one form or the other. This, naturally, causes everyone all kinds



of headaches and is the source of much humor (oh, gawd, she's naked again, are my thoughts).

When Mirai, Yuka, and Pon-chan visit a local shrine or temple as is the Japanese custom during the start of a new year, Pon-chan unthinkingly changes into a dog. She is now a Lab running around in a beautiful New Year's kimono. This doesn't sit well with animal lover Go Fujinaga who thinks dogs in human clothing is abusive.

When Go transfers to Mirai and Pon-chan's school, he meets Pon-chan as a human girl. Now there are two cute guys who have feelings for dog girl, and they sit on either side of her in class.

Creator Satomi Ikezawa, who also does *Othello*, has packed *Guru Guru Pon-Chan* with plenty of laughs and doggie moments. Ikezawa-sensei draws the blonde Pon-chan with an ever-ready smile, large innocent dilated-pupil eyes, fashionable outfits, so irresistibly CUTE, that you have to fall in love with her. On page 51, she's in a formal New Year's kimono with her hair tied up like pom-poms at the sides of her head; "A-ahh, even the dog's dressed up" are Mirai's words.

There's a nice layout on pages 146-147. It begins with a close-up on Pon-chan's tear-rimmed puppy eyes looking up at something. The longer bottom panel is a full shot of Mirai slightly bent forward with his arms open and wide waiting for Pon-chan the scared Labrador. On the following page is a blended head-and-shoulder shot of Mirai; blond wisps of hair fall cross his left eye, his eyes are soft and understanding, and he wears a gentle smile. Cut to extreme close-up on Pon-chan's right eye. Withdraw back slightly to catch freely flowing tears. The reunion layout ends with her one thought: "Mirai-kun." All this time, nothing else has been said, except what has been communicated silently.

The lighthearted *Guru Guru Pon-Chan* with heartfelt passages will have an appeal to most animal lovers; cat lovers might feel excluded.

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