1. DO NOT EXPOSE THEM TO LIGHT.
2. DO NOT GET THEM WET.
3. NEVER, EVER FEED THEM AFTER MIDNIGHT...
EMPIRE REUNITES THE GUYS WHO BROKE THE RULES TO BRING US GREMLINS & GREMLINS 2...

THEY DIDN’T LISTEN.

EMPIRE REUNITES THE GUYS WHO BROKE THE RULES TO BRING US GREMLINS & GREMLINS 2...
**THE DOG THOUGHT GIZMO WAS REAL.**

Joe Dante

I was in. I never saw any of these things. But I think it was a very difficult production. And the dog in the movie, Mushroom, was a wonderful animal. He was a great actor and he was really good in the movie. I think he was a great actor.

Walas: Did you ever settle on a backstory for Gizmo? In the rather whacked-out novelisation, he’s created by an alien named Mogwai.

Dante: Well, he drinks. He’s very difficult to direct. And he got quite a small head by the second movie. You’ll notice he hasn’t worked since.

Walas: The first time I saw it, it was a good job, but there just wasn’t a lot of budget. All these creatures had to be created and we had to have a idea how we were going to do it.

Walas: Were you thinking about the dog in the movie? I think it’s one of the best performances on screen.

Dante: When I saw it, I thought Gizmo was real. We got reactions from the dog. It was kind of a miracle, really.

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Walas: The Gremlins were nasty monsters with big white spiked horns. But I was unconvinced that this was a great idea.

Dante: It was a good job, but there just wasn’t a lot of budget. All these creatures had to be created and we had to have a idea how we were going to do it.

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Dante: The dog in the movie, Mushroom, was an amazing dog and I loved him. I think it’s one of the better animal performances on screen.

Dante: He came to visit me on The Barbs. And he remembered me!

**HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR GREMLIN**

WHAT EVERY MONSTER-COLLECTOR NEEDS TO KNOW...

**THERE ARE A FEW BASIC RULES,** says Brandon Alinger, Chief Operations Officer of Prop Store’s LA division, of keeping after a Gremlin. Of course there are.

Bright light is as lethal to the decades-old puppets as it is to the real deal. “You never want to store them near a window,” Alinger cautions. “UV rays will kill the puppets faster than anything, which is why we use filters on all our lights. You also want a stable temperature: too hot or too cold. This farm later this fall, a Gremlin becomes brittle.”

Although in the movies a blender is required, a Gremlin puppet can be destroyed as little as an accidental blow. “You can kill them very, very gently,” Alinger cautions. “One can look fine until you hit it, then shatter into dust.”

You’ve got to treat them very, very gently,” Alinger cautions. “You also want a stable temperature: too hot or too cold. This farm later this fall, a Gremlin becomes brittle.”

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experiencing, basically. Trying desperately to make things work. Walas: I’d barely survived the main production. And this was literally one puppet shot after another. At best I averaged three hours sleep a night. It was just a very hectic, panicked endurance test. Sorry. I just wanted to complain for a moment there...

Baker: I visited Chris on the set, and he was on sutures. Didn’t you fall off the back of a truck?

Dante: And you had a kidney stone...

Walas: You name it, I had it. Yeah, we were doing the shot on Billy’s roof where the monsters are hanging off the Christmas lights. And I was running back and forth fetching more Gremlins. I had a cold and was jacked up on medication...

Dante: This is so sad...

Walas: And I fell out the back of our truck. Smashed my ankle pretty badly. But I kept working...

Dante: We work, um ‘til they drop...

Walas: It was the most difficult film I’ve ever worked on, bar none. But I thought it was great. Joe was fantastic. So at the same time as I was having the most horrendous experience of my life, it was also pretty much the best experience I ever had...

The movie opened on June 8, 1984 — the same day as Ghostbusters. Dante: I think it was a bit of an afterthought. I remember the day we watched dailies of Gremlins coming out of his box for the first time. These hardened Warners executives started going, “Ooh!” In the back of my head I could hear cash-register noises. They instantly put their merchandising staff into high gear. Board games and Colorforms and clothing and bed-sheets... Whatever they could think of. Gremlins just doesn’t go away. People in the effects business want to talk to me about all this. They go to Japan and there’s a 60-year-old girl drawing me pictures of Mogwai. They love it over there.

Baker: It’s always had a real special place for me. My big memory is of bringing the ultrasound of our daughter into the shop and everyone gathering around the TV to look at it. We were making all this cool stuff and then I had a daughter too.

Dante: I’ve never forget the time Marilyn Manson came up to me at a bar and said, “I have a Gremlins lunch box. Would you sign it?” I said, “Yeah.”

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