

LULLABY TO ZIGGY



Photo taken by TIEG member Carolyn Starner at Gardening Photography Group's get-together in April 2010 at Falls Park, Post Falls--picture entitled "Looking Up at Mama"

Ziggy, the wonder dog, the very first (and founding) member of the garden club's Snoopy's Great Adventure Fun Club has gone to live under the Rainbow Bridge. A very special TIEG member, Ziggy, was a black and white male Papillon who would have been 12 years old in January 2011--if his heart, which was always big and full of love, had not gone out on him. He was the first dog our family ever had as adults, we had always been strictly cat people before Ziggy came into our world and changed everything. Everyone that knew him, loved him. If Ziggy would have had a Facebook page, he would have had a thousand friends.

Ziggy taught us how amazing dogs are and thanks to him, there will always be dogs in our home on Bettman Road. Ziggy was a kind of a miracle from the start. He was born premature and tiny. He shouldn't have even been born at all. He came into this world with a bad leg and he was given to us by the breeder for "free." At that time we had no idea how much all his medical issues would cost over time--5 major surgeries in the first 5 years of his life including open-heart. Each surgery was as hard on our family as it was on this small remarkable dog but somehow we made it through and we all formed an even stronger bond because of it with not only Ziggy but with each other.

To say that little dog knew a thing or two about pain would be an understatement. But this strong 10-pound dog had an incredible sheer will to live, a tenacity of spirit, and that along with his fierce love of his "Mama"--my younger sister Chris--got him and us through the dark times. For many good years, our Ziggy enjoyed a pretty wonderful life. The last couple of years of his life--he might not have been the fastest dog around, he had a bad limp. And he was grumpy, old age and constant pain from crippling arthritis had made him so. But he still did a little dance when it came time to eat--Turkey Time--or when we were going Bye-Bye. Just last month he checked out the new CDA dog park with his sister Angel and his brother Gizmo.

Looking over the years, I can't even count all the garden club events that Ziggy attended--the first couple of years of the Garden Expo, Snoopy events, teas, movie nights, playtimes, puppy picnics, walks around Manito Park, road trips--we kept this little dog very busy. His social schedule was more active than most people's I know. He was an important part of our lives. He still is. He always will be. Dogs are so cool--we know that now because of you, Ziggy Stardust--sweet dreams, sweet boy, sweet prince.

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