

LOVE

A Tribute to My BFF, Chip.

September 29, 2019



It's hard to type when my vision is blurred with tears...

In late August I took Chip to see Doctor Rose because he seemed to be having trouble laying down and occasionally walking. I thought he had arthritis. Maybe he did, but Rose immediately noticed what she thought might be a tumor in his chest. An X-ray confirmed it. Chip had a BIG tumor and during surgery a few days later Rose discovered that it was cancerous and spreading.

That was an outcome Rose had prepared me for and the plan was to put him down while he was still under from the surgery if so.

I was with him repeating the words, "I love you" in his ear when he passed away.

I loved Chip with all my heart and he surely loved me back. I still love him and like all my BFFs before him, always will.

Chip was my almost constant companion and we shared everything from sleeping spots, walks, talks, (Okay, I did most of that.) food, travel and just life together.

Simply put, Chip was a great dog who COMPLETELY fulfilled the role/saying of, “Man’s Best Friend.”

After his passing it hit me just how much time I spent with my buddy every single day. I was almost okay for about a week, then the depression set in...

Except for work I checked out of life for a good three weeks. I couldn’t walk anywhere in town without crying. I certainly couldn’t visit the Fahrenheit as that was a darned-near twice a day staple for Chip and I. (The water dish on their patio was known as “Chip’s” water dish...)

But I’ve gotten over that at this point and want to thank everyone who expressed their love for Chip and their support for me during the last month.

My friends and loved ones know that I’m beginning a new chapter in the book of “John’s Life With Dogs.” Doctor Rose said that Chip would lead me, when the time was right, to another companion and I believe he is doing just that. More on that topic another day.

Chip will remain featured on this blog as my writing partner forever and it will be forever dedicated to him.

A Very Sweet Story

I once watched an old Twilight Zone episode starring a young Buddy Epsen.

It was set way out in the country somewhere in the early 1900s. Buddy’s character died and his spirit was wandering his homestead not realizing what had happened – until he saw his body occupying a cheap wooden casket in the front room of the cabin he shared with his wife.

Buddy spoke his thoughts out loud in the show and after coming to the realization that he had passed away he knew he should be going somewhere. But he didn’t know where.

He walked out onto a rickety front porch and was joined by his old Coon Hound that had died before

him. After a joyous greeting the hound wanted Buddy to follow him down the dusty dirt road that was out front of the cabin.

Buddy did so and side by side they walked a ways and came upon a side road blocked by an old metal gate. Next to the gate stood a man nattily dressed for the times who invited Buddy in. Buddy was unsure but the man was a very smooth talker. He promised Buddy an eternity of all things he ever wanted in life if he would just come on in. The man finally convinced Buddy to enter and find out for himself what was waiting around the bend in the road.

The man opened the gate and Buddy and his dog started towards it. "Oh, I'm sorry," said the gatekeeper. "No dogs are allowed in here."

At that Buddy decided this wasn't the place for him and he and his hound walked on. The gatekeeper called out to Buddy, telling him he was making a big mistake.

Buddy didn't listen and continued, his dog walking happily by his side.

Eventually they came to another side road. Another man was standing by it but there was no gate. In appearance and speech this man was strikingly similar to the first. He also invited Buddy to find out what was waiting for him around the bend in the road.

Buddy asked the man something like, "Wait, I can't bring my dog in with me, right?"

The man looked perplexed and with a smile answered, "Well of course you can sir, it wouldn't be Heaven without your dog now, would it?"

In Closing...

I believe that all of my lifetime BFFs, Chip, Lucy, Sam, Petie and Red are all waiting for me in Heaven and that someday I'll be reunited with them and any others that follow.

Because, well, it wouldn't be Heaven without your dogs now, would it?

I love you and will always miss you Chipperdoodle. Thank you for all the great times and all the love. You were a fantastic friend. I'll see you again when God decides it's time...



Chip the day before he left us – he was so happy and had such a good day!