

MY BEST FRIEND

Diane Parker

I bought my house August, 1989 and moved to Bennett, Colorado to get away from the big city urbane life. Working in the city was one thing, but I needed to get back to my rural roots.

Moving to Bennett I hooked up with my parents' longtime friends, the Krugers, who were retired ranchers from Nebraska. They had moved to Aurora some years ago and then bought 80 acres north of Bennett. I was glad to connect with them and their family once again.

It was on one of my visits with them that they asked if I would like to have a dog. I had just gotten settled in my new home and didn't feel I was ready to adopt a dog even though I had brought two house cats with me. Reluctantly I went out with them where they kept the dog in a small pen with a dilapidated doghouse that looked to fall apart at any given time.

I admit she seemed like a nice animal, was trained to some extent, but I told them maybe later when I was more settled into my new home. She didn't have a name. One of their neighbors lost their job when Boeing went out at Stapleton and he had asked them if they would keep her until he found work someplace else and would return to get her. She was only 1 year old at that time and now was 2 ½.

The winter passed and I made many visits to see them. Spring came and on one of those visits I asked if they still had the dog and they said yes. We trekked back out to see her. She looked so lonely but wagged her tail and jumped up along the fence happy to see us.

Guess what? She ended up coming home with me. With her riding along in the cab of my pickup we made a quick trip (30 miles), into Aurora where I bought her food supplies, a collar and leash at the WalMart. I named her Lady because of her personality

I took her to the Bennett vet and she got her shots. Dr. Chris thought she was a blend of black chow and black lab. I found out later the black lab dominated as her personality was so social and congenial. She loved people and was not a barker.

Fifteen years went by and I can't tell you enough about this friendship that became so important in my life. She became my best friend, my supporter, skiing and camping partner. She went on my weekend crews working on the Colorado Trail for over ten years. She was my healer, doctor, physchiartrist, you name it. We were inseperable except when I had to be at work.

I retired in 2003 from Corporate and sold the house moving into Aurora with a retired co-worker. I rented rooms in her house and Lady had a nice fenced backyard. Two years later, at the age of 17, Lady was gently sending out messages about her old age. She was going blind and was losing the use of her back legs.

I called my son and we took her for her last ride back to Bennett where Dr. Chris put her down. What a wonderful 15 year friendship we had.