

## You CAN Buy Love

*By Suzy Hopkins*

Five months after I moved to Denver, when I realized my cancer had disappeared, it was time to get a dog. I looked at the rescues and shelters but none had a small hypoallergenic female. One of the staff told me that Maltese are hypoallergenic. I'd never heard of the Maltese breed but was extremely delighted when I went to the puppy store and found just what I wanted. The dog breed book said they are sweet, maximum size 6-8 pounds. It is a nine hundred year old breed from the Island of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea.

On the way home I held her in my lap because she was so tiny. Looking at her I said, "She looks like popcorn – that dull white color." She named herself. Her coat is soft like a rabbit's fur and grows continuously.

She is my constant companion lying on my feet when I'm at my desk or my computer, attaches to me when I'm sitting on the couch and backs up to my back at night. She lives for hugs but will leave me alone when I say, "Not right now."

A friend is one who knows all about you and likes you anyway. Popcorn doesn't care that I am old and wrinkled. She just wants to be where ever I am. She definitely qualifies as my Best Friend.