

Our Dog Tammy

By Jean Stene

When you get a pet, you are getting another member of the family!

That was the case when we got our Tammy. Her mother was a registered collie. She had been taken to the country so she wouldn't be introduced to a "street dog." As the best plans don't always work out, we did not know the parentage of her father.

We got Tammy when she was eight weeks old. She was so wonderful with the girls, letting them do almost anything with her. We did not have a fenced yard but she never left it without one of us being with her. She never had a leash on as at that time there weren't any leash laws.

We always took her on our hikes with us. I don't know how many more miles she walked than we did as she would check each of us from back to front and then the other way around to see if we were all there.

We bought her a very large dog house for outside. The ones who used the dog house were our three girls. She would just lie outside and wait for them to come out and play with her.

I remember one Fourth of July we were all in the back yard doing fireworks. Lynn, our daughter, was on the patio. Fred, my husband, gave her a Roman candle. As the small balls of fire started shooting up, Tammy decided that it wasn't safe for her. She leaped up and snatched it out of her hand and ran in circles in the yard. We couldn't get it from her until all the fire balls were not shooting anymore. After that on the Fourth we would have to hold Tammy and pet her or she would go hide in the bathtub.

We almost lost Tammy once. We had moved to Steamboat. We had rented a house up at Mad Creek. The Elk River ran right behind the house. One winter night we let Tammy out. When it was time for her to come in we called her but she didn't come. Fred put on his boots and went to find her. He could hear her whimper but had a hard time finding her. When he found her she was struggling through deep snow. He gently picked her up and found she had somehow fallen in the river. She had huge frozen snowballs hanging from her belly. Fred brought her in as everyone made over her. We got out a blanket for her to defrost and warm up on. We were so lucky we didn't lose her.

We all loved our Tammy. She was always a part of the family. She was never left out of any activity.