



Jerry

It's better to hop on three legs than to limp on four.



tripawds®



Wyatt Ray



tripawds®

Tripawds.com was founded in 2006 when energetic GSD, Jerry, developed a limp after a hiking trip. Read about the series of events from his point of view:

Weeks went by while I tried to hide my pain until doctors found out why I was hurting; I had bone cancer, and my left front leg had to be amputated. My pawrents were devastated. They didn't know anything about amputation surgery, cancer, or tripod dogs. When doctors told Dad I was going to be a "Tripod," he thought that was kinda mean. So Dad coined the spelling "Tripawd" because that's what we are right? Three-pawed dogs!

Mom and Dad felt so scared and alone. They started blogging about our life and making movies of our adventures as a way to cope. That's when Tripawds.com was born. As for me, I just wanted to be out of pain. And on Thanksgiving Day, 2006, I got my wish. I became a Tripawd after the good docs at the University of California at Davis Vet Teaching Hospital took my leg off. That horrible pain was gone, and my lungs were free of metastasis, but doctors still only gave me about four months to live (Osteosarcoma is a very fast-spreading disease).

Prognosis-schmognosis, I just didn't care about that. Remember, time means nothing to us dogs. We don't even know how to tell time! Living for the moment is all that matters, so when I saw how upset my people were, I decided to show them how to really live! Every day became a reason to celebrate one more day together. My parents were great students as they learned how to quit worrying about the future and instead focused on the here and now.

While nobody ever really knows how long we have on this earth, we all knew the facts: this type of nasty cancer would shorten my life. We didn't want to waste any time, so Mom and Dad sold their business and almost everything they owned, bought a RV, and together we hit the road to see North America, together as a pack.

We started in June, 2007 and for two years we drove more than 30,000 miles around the country. We went coast to coast, and everywhere we went, I did my best to show people how awesome three legged dogs can be. I met so many other cool Tripawds and humans, and saw such neat places!

Together, we spread the word that "It's better to hop on three legs than limp on four!" The more months that went by, the more we were amazed and grateful for how much extra time we had together. We were even featured on Public Television, in a PBS documentary called Nature: Why We Love Cats and Dogs.

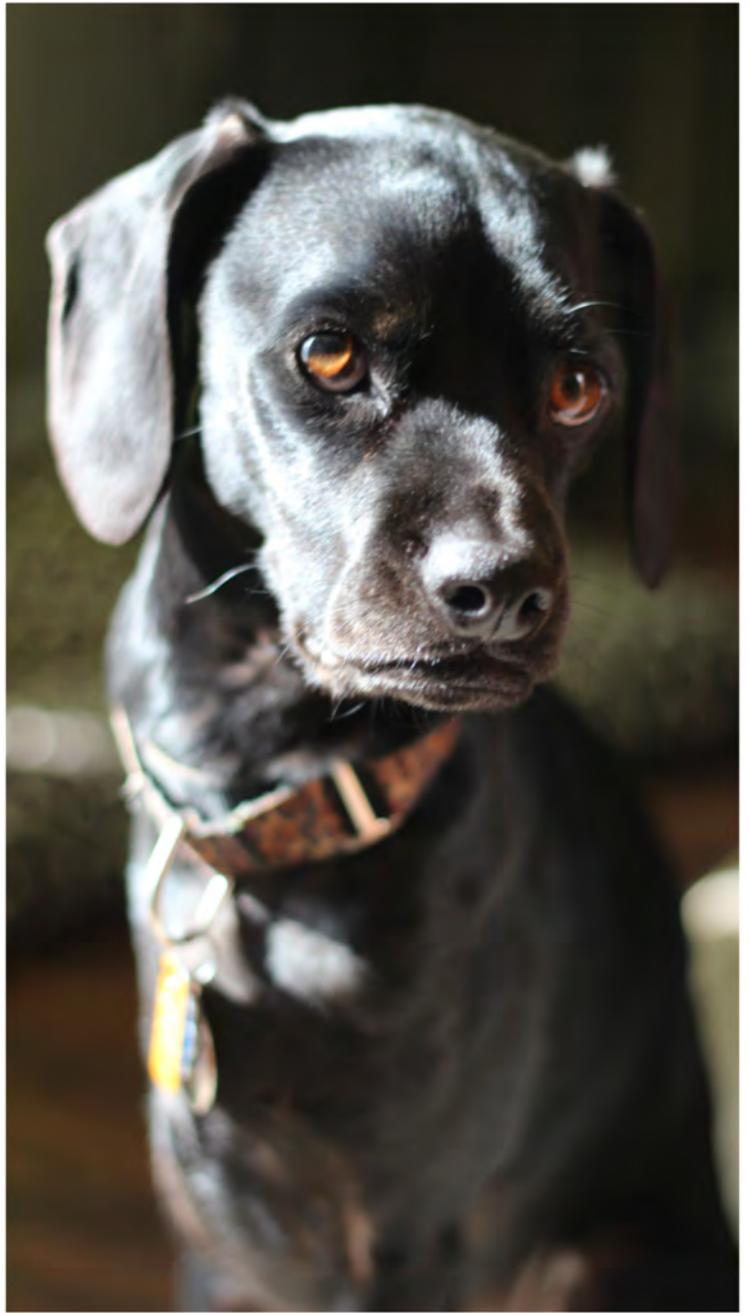
While we traveled, Dad kept adding features to Tripawds, and before we knew it, we had over 1,000 members who found themselves in the same place, wondering if amputation was the right thing to do, and how they would cope. Some were facing cancer, some weren't. But we all shared the fear of not knowing what living on three legs is really like.

Once Dad added Discussion Forums to Tripawds, our pawesome community grew larger, and that's when we realized that this community is indeed a special place, full of love and support from pawrents who understand the depth of caring that special humans have for their animal friends.

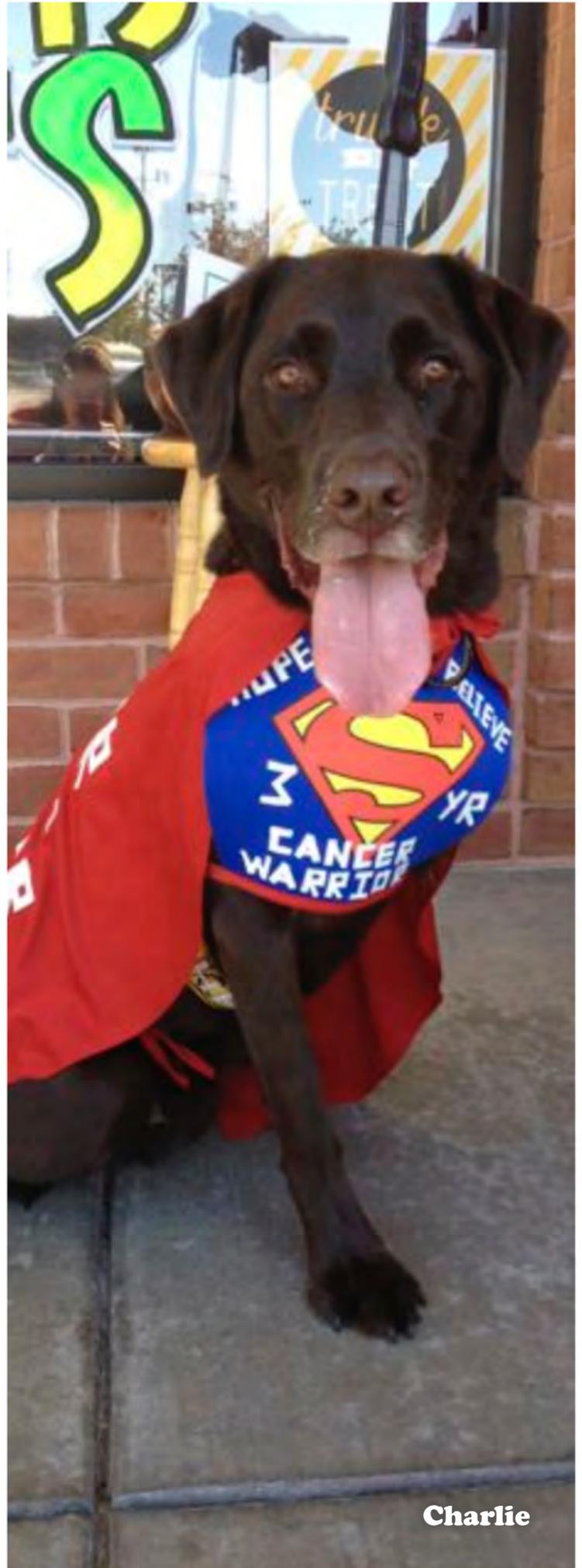
My pawrents and I had an incredible journey together for two great years, far longer than any statistics said I would live. But on October 3, 2008, two days after my tenth birthday, I earned my angel wings under beautiful Montana skies.

Despite their broken hearts, gradually they healed, and found beauty in the truth that the timeless bond we share goes far beyond our physical selves. The Tripawds community has since turned into a volunteer labor of love for my Mom and Dad. This accidental project they started is now their life's calling, and they hope that here you will find the strength to overcome any obstacles you are currently facing, and learn how to live a joyous, fun-filled life as a three legged Tripawd hero.





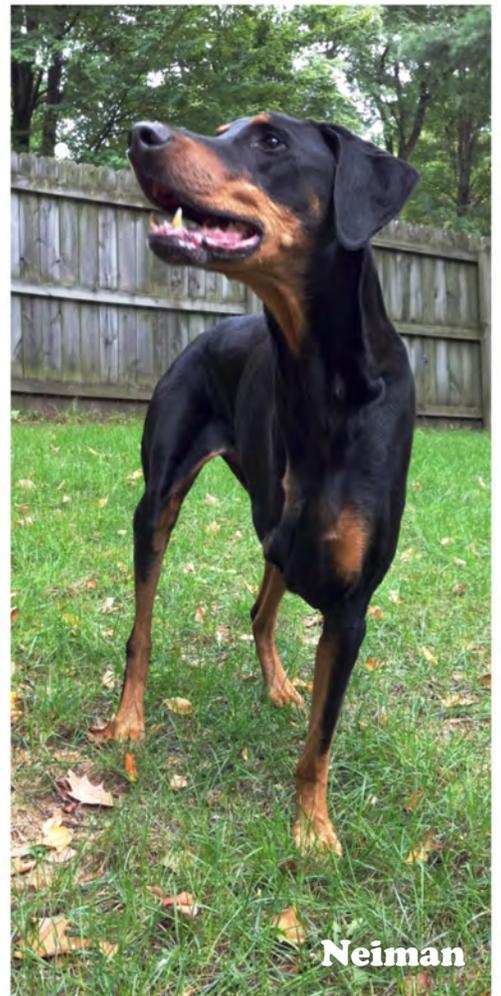
Barret



Charlie



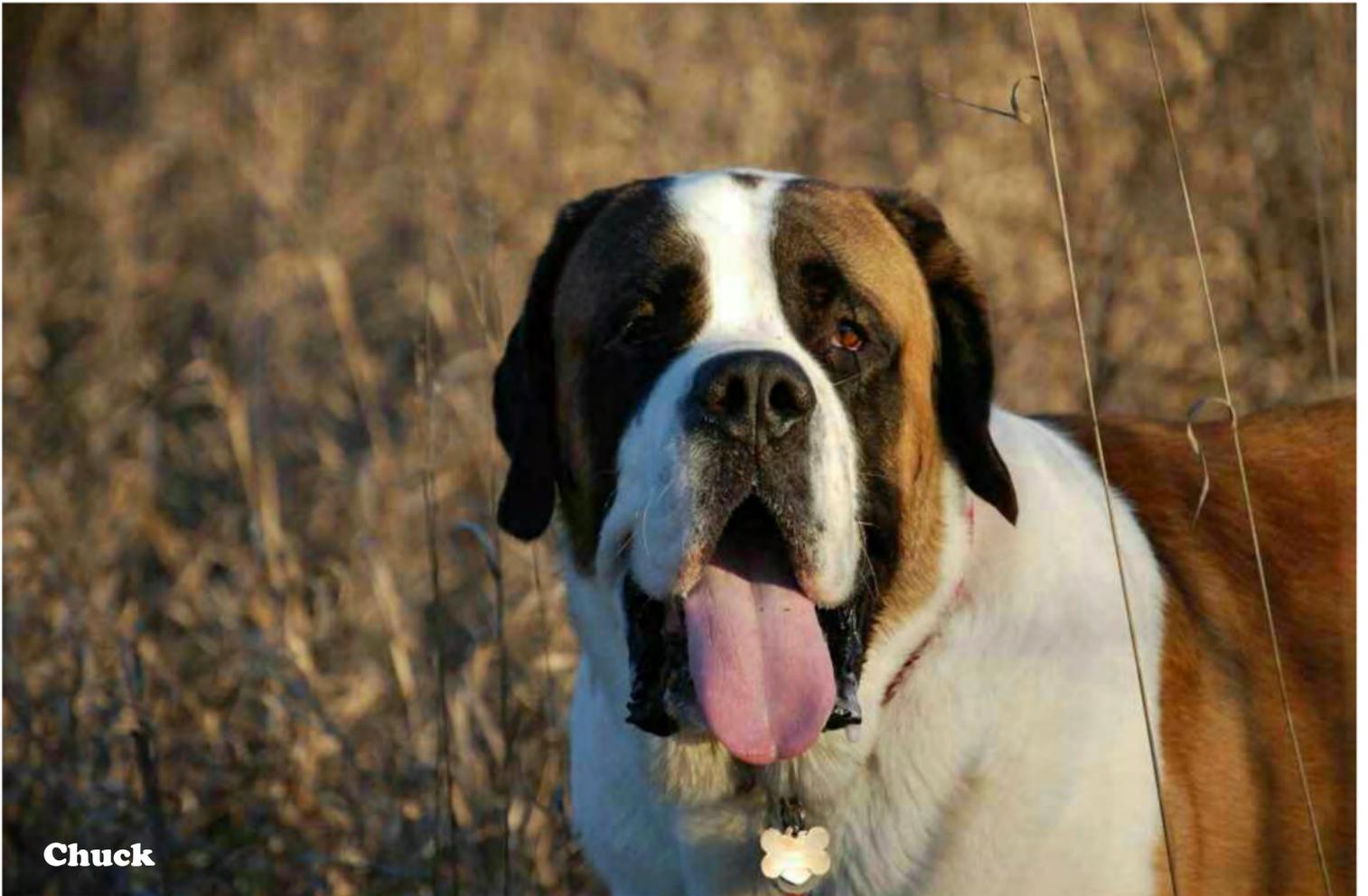
Cooper



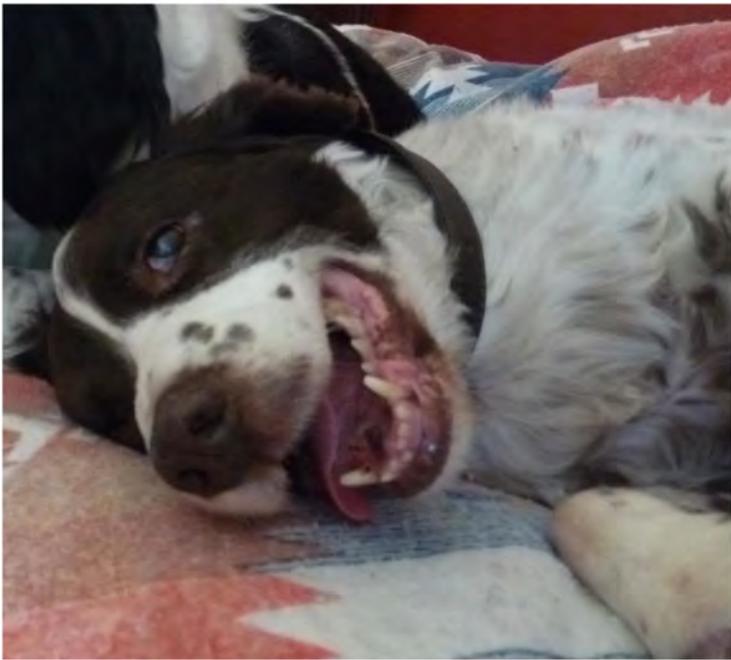
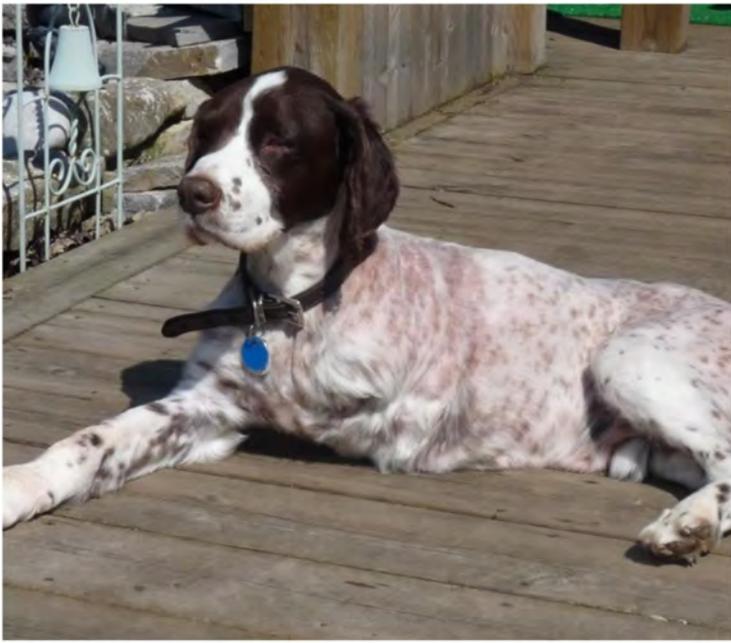
Neiman



Duff



Chuck



Franklin

Dakota



Freddie

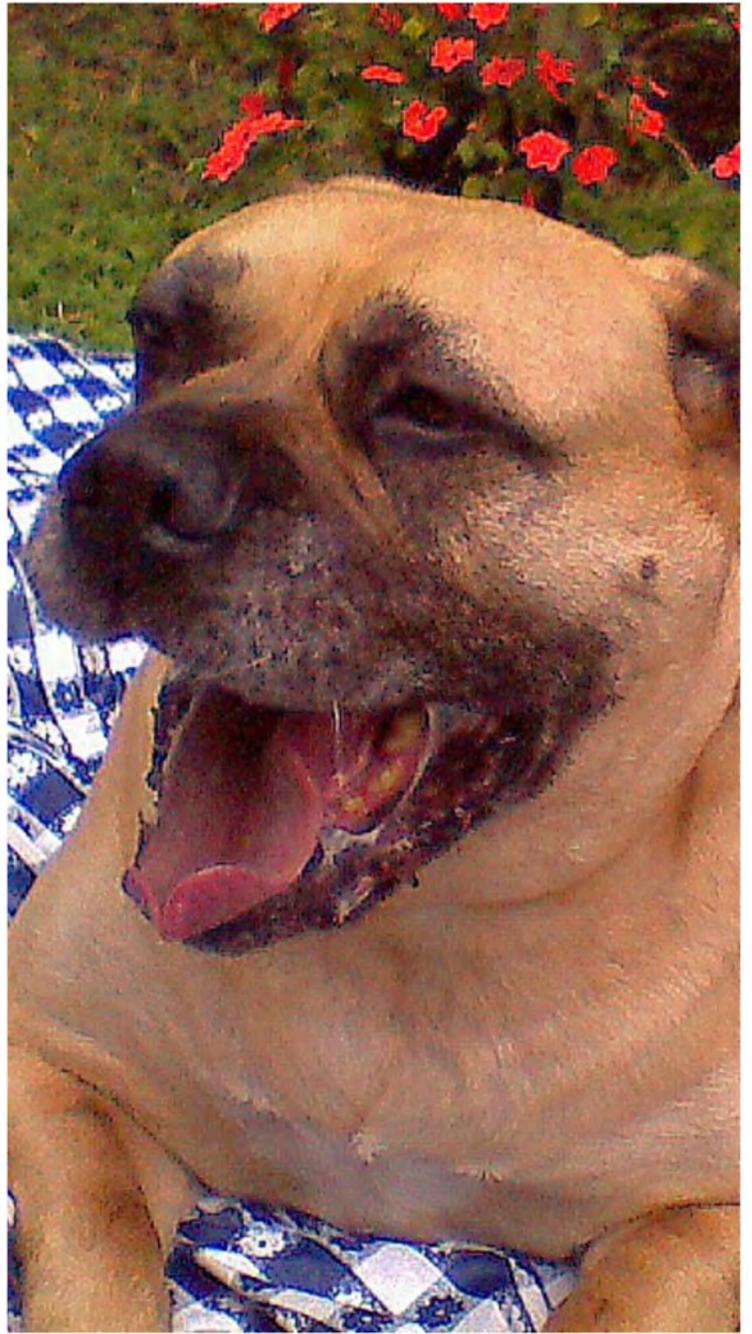


Daisy

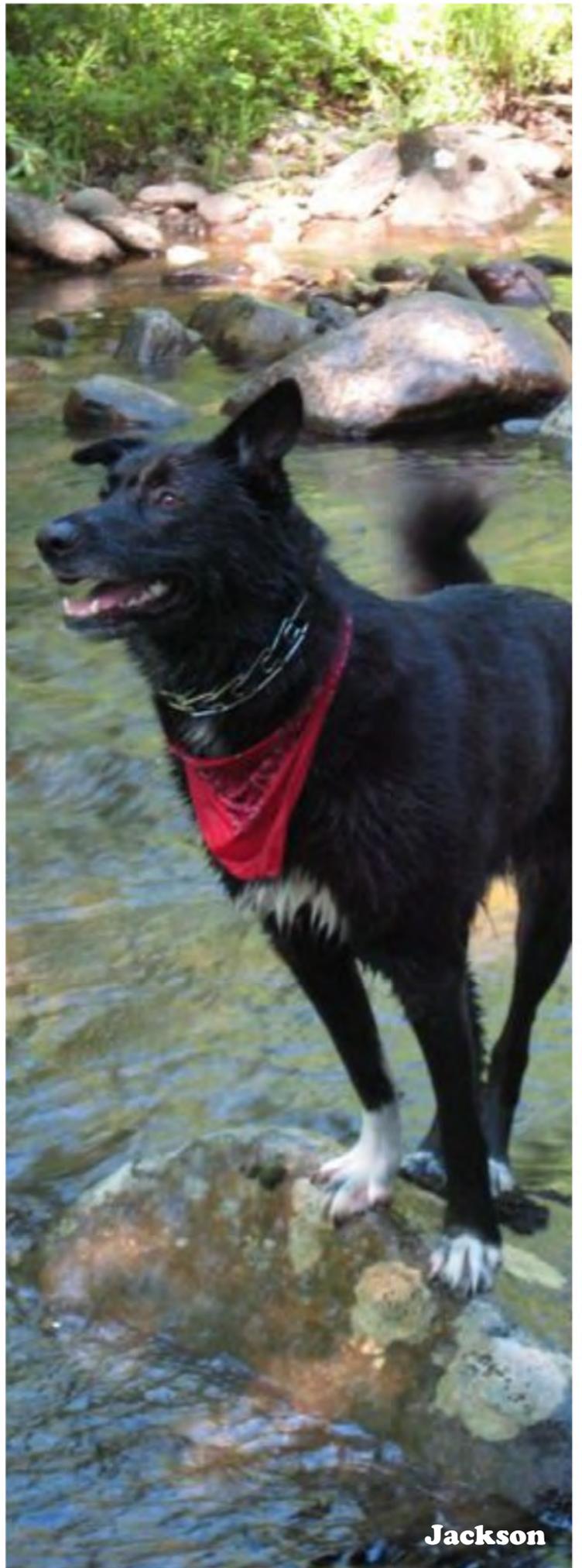
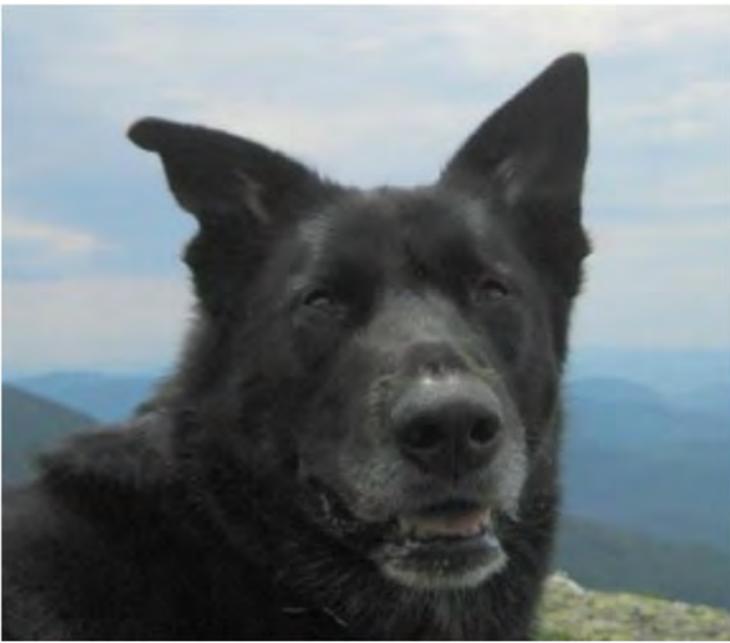


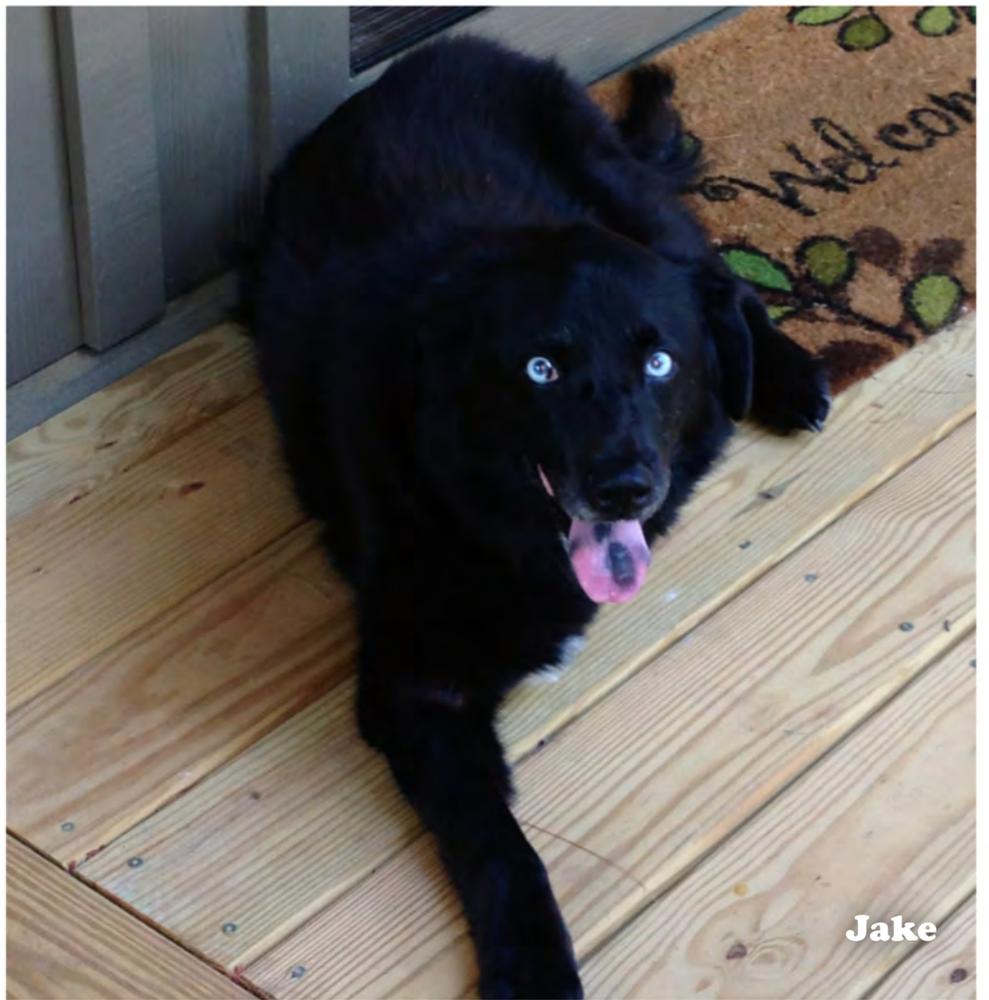
Murphy





Happy Hannah

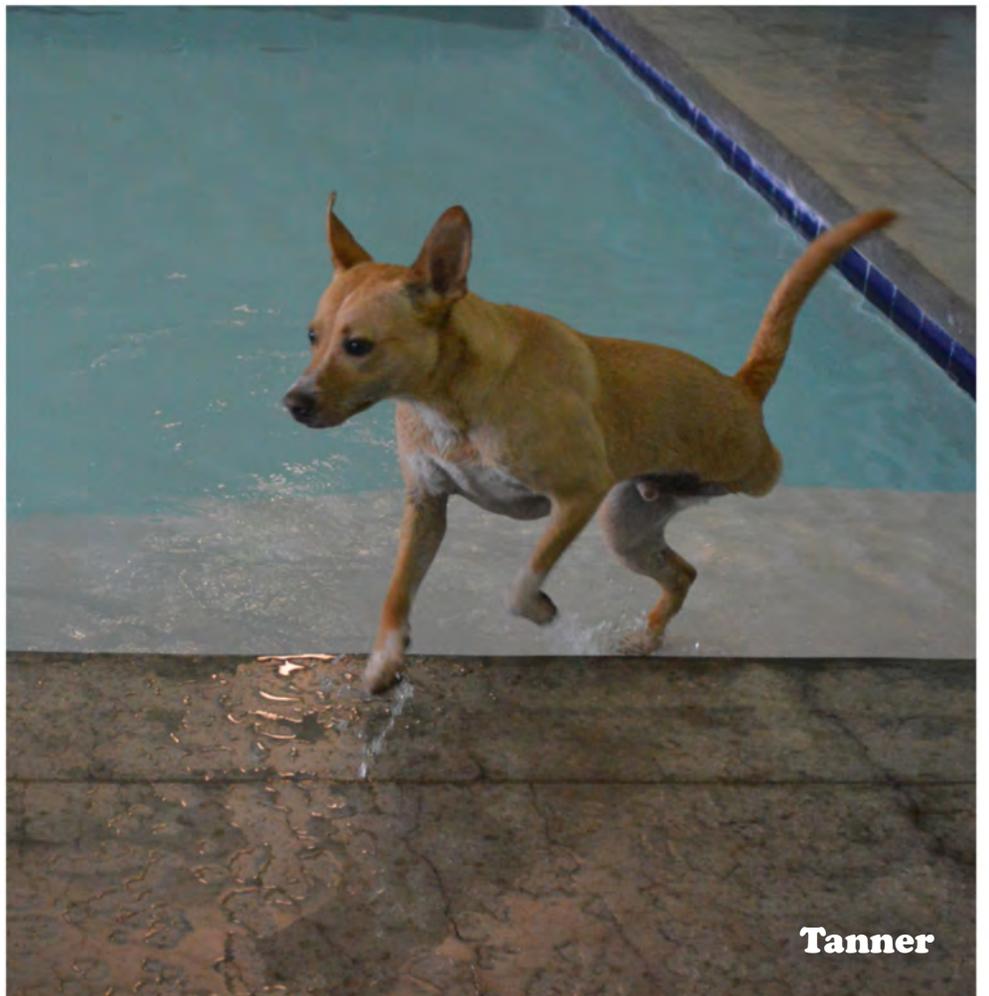




Jake



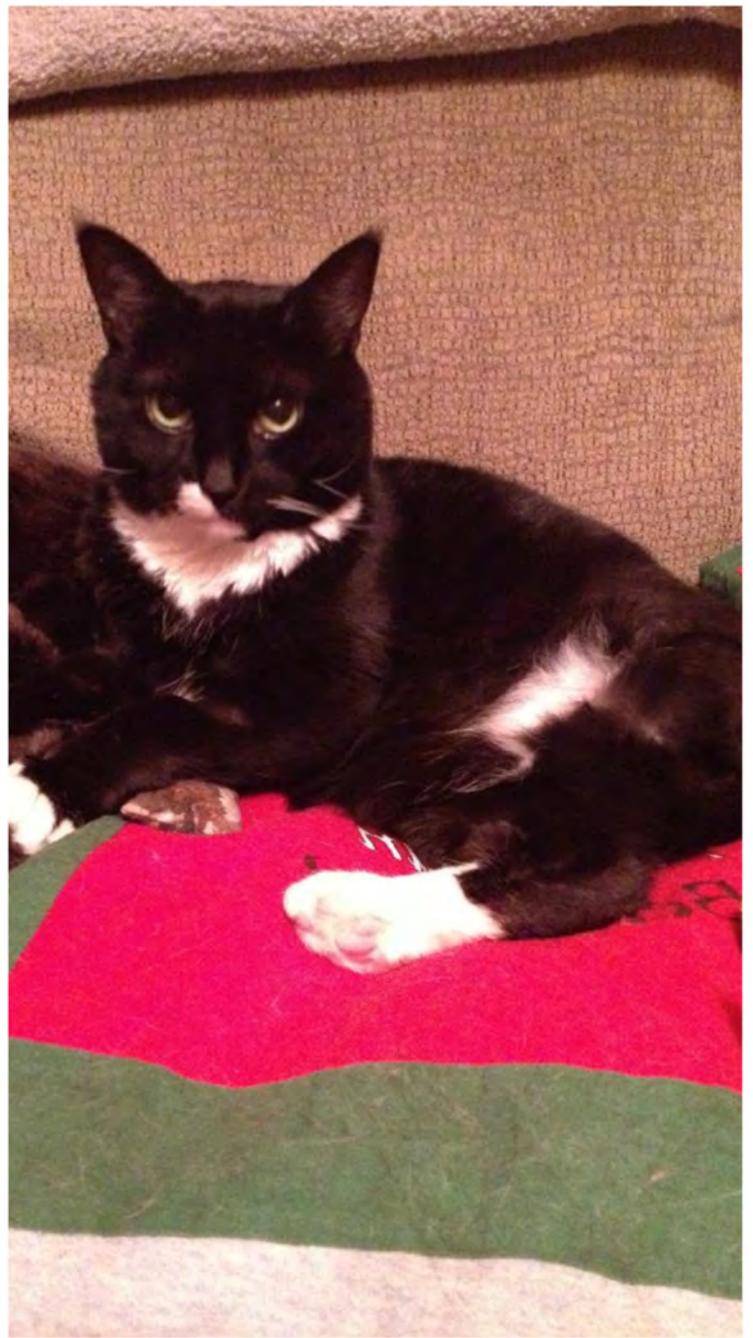
Jersey Girl



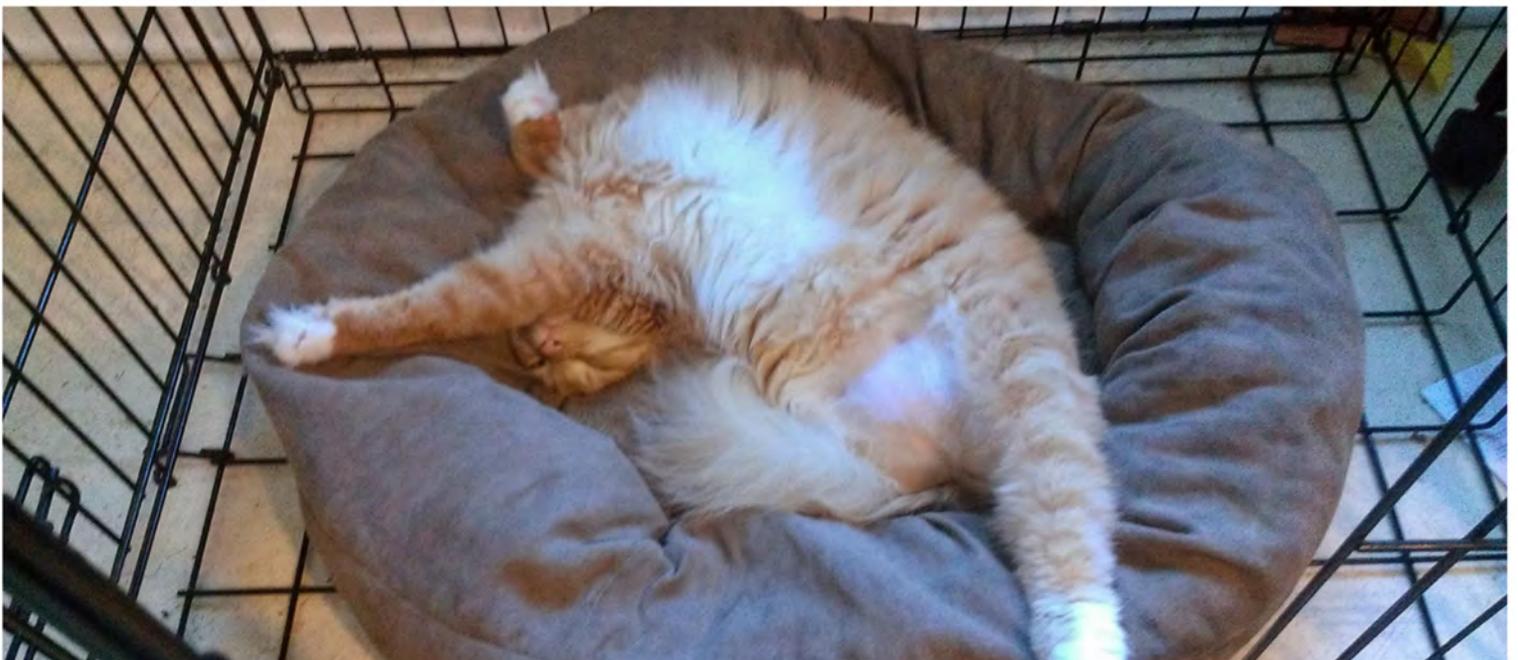
Tanner

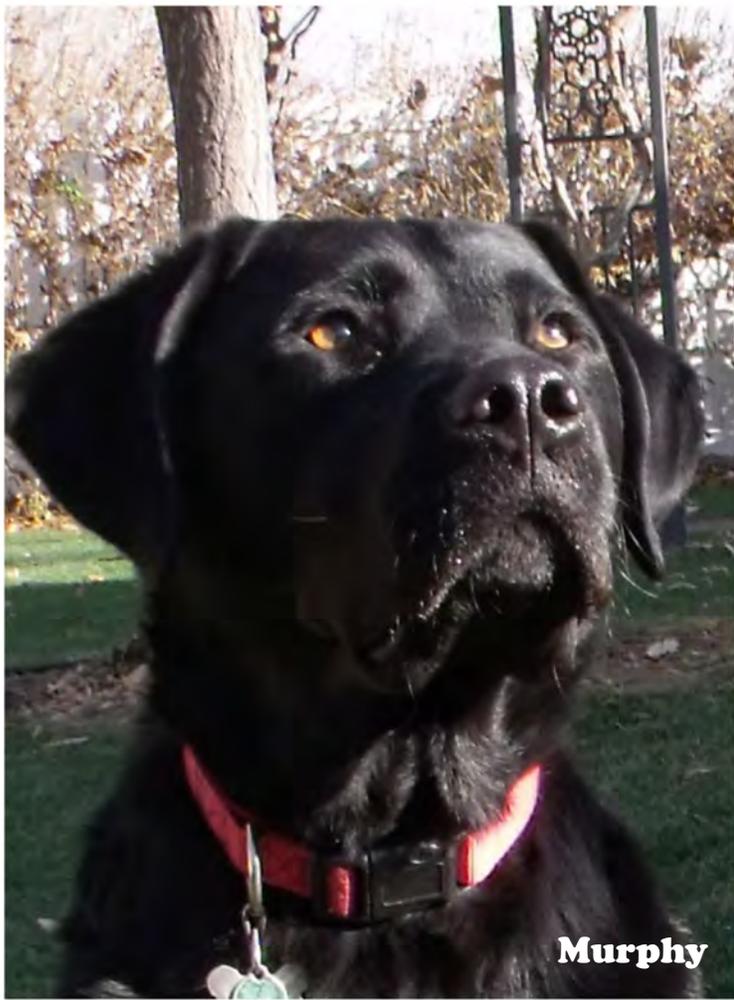


Jill

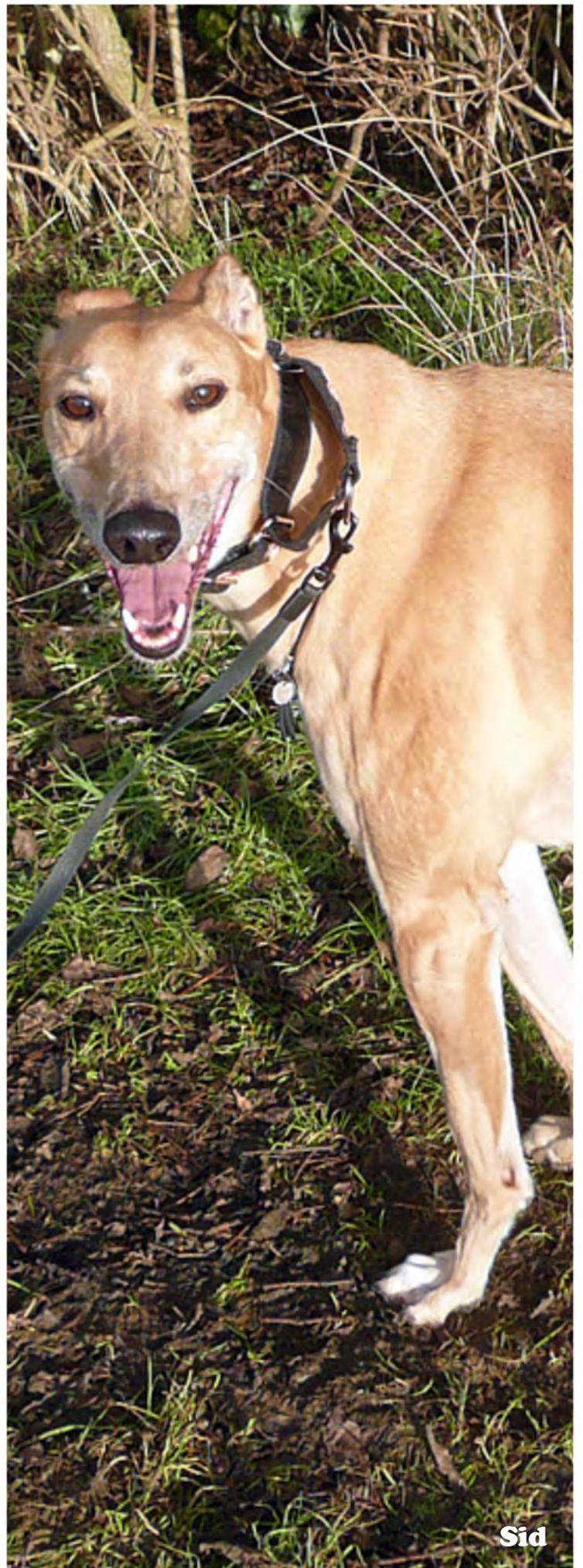


Steve





Murphy



Sid



Ami



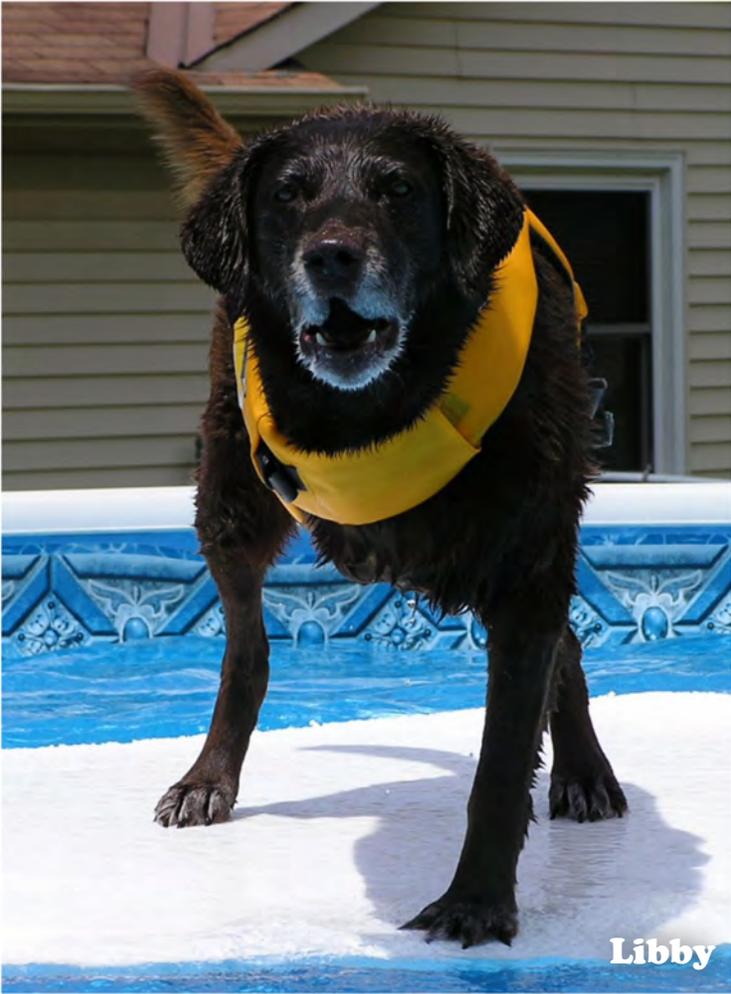
Oreo



Roxie



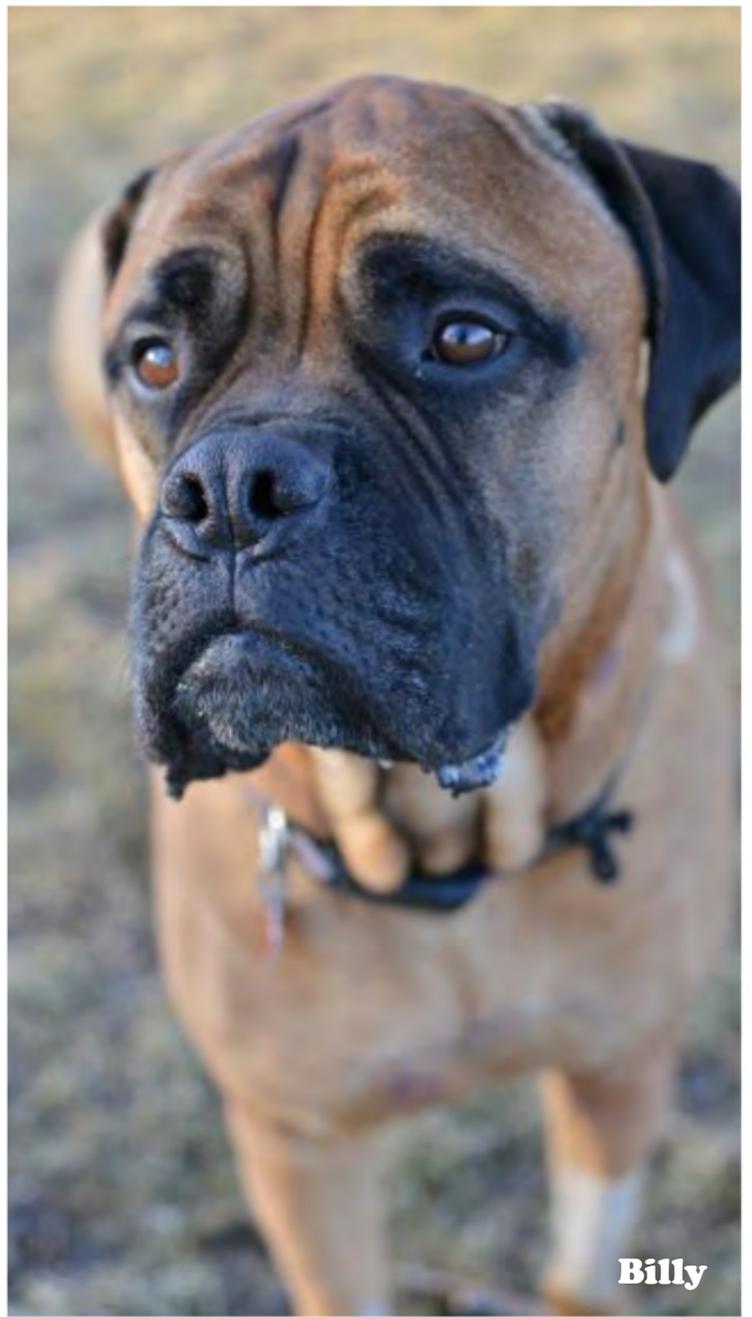
Polly



Libby



Sampson

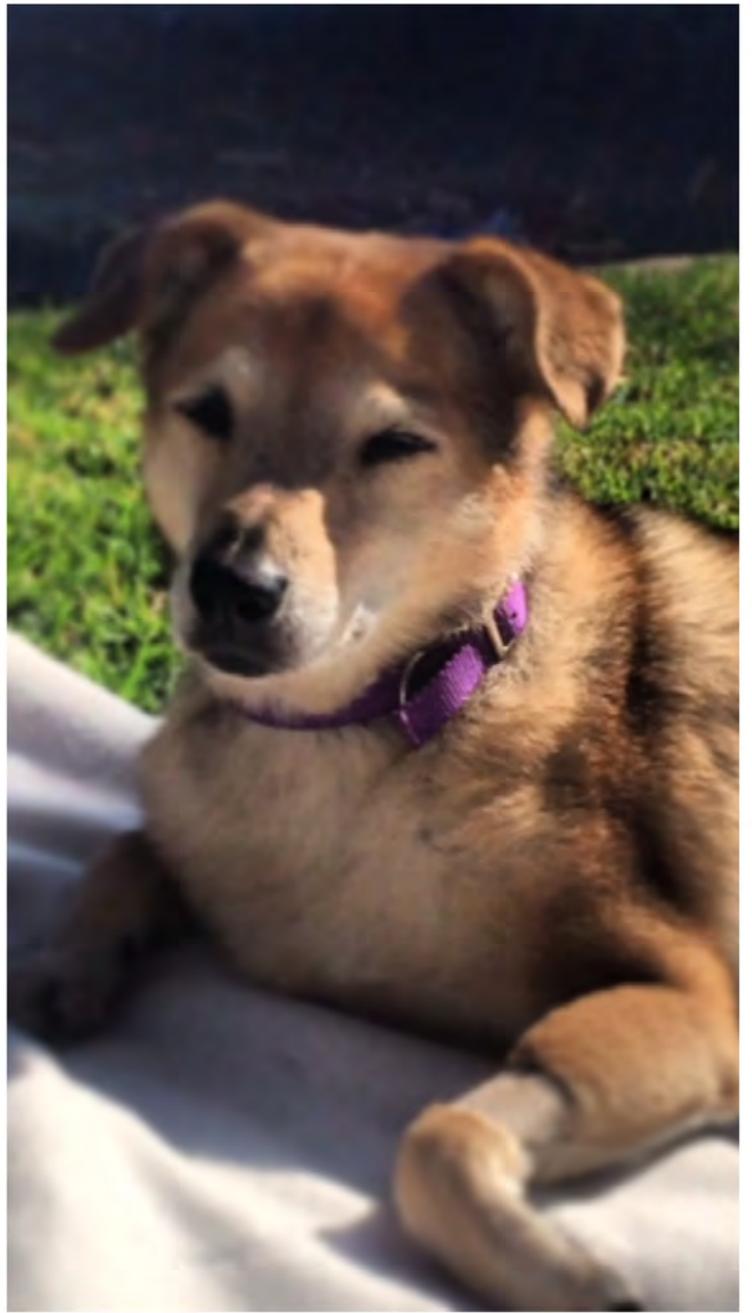


Billy



Shooter





Shelby



Triton



Dymond

