

With Oliver



Comforting Lucy



“ANUBIS”

FEBRUARY 5TH 2009

Anubis, often known simply as Annie, came to live with us just less than two short months ago. Her loving owner Charles, was unable to keep her any longer due to his own extreme health issues, impending surgery and long rehabilitation period. She was ill and so was he, and they could no longer manage together.

From day one it was apparent that this sweet 16 year old Basenji girl was born to be here with us. She fitted straight in and was adored by cats and Joey alike – no mean feat I can tell you! With a torn cruciate ligament, lots of excess weight, a struggling liver and also anemia, it had been suggested to Charles he may consider she be put out of her pain and suffering.....Instead, thankfully, Charles found BrightHaven.

Joey loved his wobbly Annie friend immediately, and prayed hard for the day she would have the strength to join more in daily life and maybe even go on walks together. We prayed to help her heal and, for now, eat well and be less painful.

With the help of her new veterinarian, Dr Jeff Levy, Nubi was treated homeopathically and weaned off drugs. She was given lots of love and a brand new diet....Well, that was a stumbling block as Anubis really only craved for her favorite Chinese meals!! Happily, with a little perseverance and compromise Anubis discovered the delights of eating naturally and began to love her new food!

After a few sticky and worrisome weeks, Anubis began to blossom and flower, just as we had hoped. Amazingly, she began to walk unaided, and then without pain, and soon she was mobile enough to explore and choose her own favorite spots.....funny, they were always with other cats and Joey. She made herself a member of the family quickly, slept beside my bed, and who could not adore this sweet being, who simply exuded kindness and affection to all?

I guess we should have realized the kind of girl she was, as, not long after her arrival, dear Lucy lay down to die and, in the ensuing days most of Lucy’s photographs contain the dog who rarely left her side and slept on the blow up bed with us all at night.

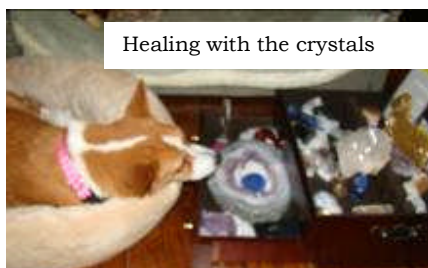
When Christmas came, Joey was horrified to see that Anubis even allowed Blanca to dress her in reindeer ears and snap her cute face! He maintains that act almost destroyed his love for her!



Watching Vancouver!



With pal Joey



Healing with the crystals



One for Johnnie and me to treasure

This last week I cannot begin to convey how thrilling it was to see our girl with a new lease on life. Over and over again friends and volunteers were heard to exclaim excitedly, as they saw Annie's bright and happy new self pottering through the house or gardens. Yes! She even started going outdoors for walks with Joey.

Wednesday morning she did not seem well, but overcame her obvious nausea and continued through her day happily as always, until Thursday morning, when she found she did not feel well again and this time refused her breakfast. She took herself to bed to rest, as we watched her anxiously. By 11am I knew all was not well and called Dr Jeff for help. A remedy was prescribed, after which Anubis perked right up and everyone heaved a sigh of relief. Phew, we thought, that was scary. In the ensuing hours our girl gradually made it clear that all was really not well and she did not wish to get up from her bed, although remained thirsty for drinks of water.

Fray and Richard helped me to prepare the famous BrightHaven blow-up bed so that I could sleep beside her in case of need, and give her comfort if she couldn't sleep. We all then went off to bed with radios in hand, in case Anubis needed help.

Five short minutes later I called out loudly on the radio as Anubis sat up quickly, and gasped. I knew that look immediately and sat, holding her tenderly in utter disbelief. Richard and Fray arrived quickly and within just several minutes Anubis left our world and we were left to sit in silent shock and disbelief. Soon the tears came in torrents as we said goodbye to the sweet soul who came to enrich our lives with her presence.

With us at the end was best friend Joey, as well as Vancouver, Sammi, Panther, Blue and Stefanie - all getting ready to spend a happy night on the old blow-up bed, and stunned to witness the sudden turn of events.

We all sat in shock for quite some time - unable to take it in, and believe her actually gone from us. Cups of tea were made, as we talked and sobbed for our loss. We lit candles, prayed for her safe journey home on wings of light, and eventually slept. Today I am again in disbelief and the utter pain and sorrow in my mind and heart, simply indescribable.

We are well used to bidding our loved ones fare-thee-well and grieving with them on their journey in the ensuing weeks before their demise. Anubis gave us no time for that, and now we must spend silent days in grief - and thanks too, for time richly spent in the company of a very special and very old soul.

*"I do not understand the mystery of grace
- only that it meets us where we are,
but does not leave us where it found us."
Anne LaMott*