

CH Caraway Banner News

Posted to scwtbreeder list, July 27, 2005

John and I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and concern in response to my post about Scoop. I hope those to whom we didn't respond or who got a short answer will understand.

Scoop never improved and, in fact, a third leg started to become affected. She had zero function and sensation in both right legs. She did not have any infection or virus, nor was Lyme involved.

We all read posts like this and think what decisions we might make in similar situations. I'm here today to tell you that all the limits and parameters you set in advance fly out the window in the blink of an eye and you're left with your core beliefs about dogs. Ours is that we want our dogs to be "who" they are.

The essence of Scoop was that she was an affectionate dog and a natural athlete. She was happiest beating all the other dogs in races around the yard; sneaking into the bedroom and leaping onto our very high bed with such effortless grace it seemed like just another stride; rolling in every direction on the sofa bumping into us.

It was clear she would not return to being Scoop, or even an approximation of it. It was a nightmarish decision to make. Others might make a different one. I respect that opinion and hope ours is equally respected.

We thank Beth and Betty for entrusting Scoop to us 5 years ago. She was a beautiful, affectionate bitch and we were proud of her and her achievements; we loved her and we mourn her.

There is a phrase in Bruce Springsteen's "Land of Hope and Dreams"..."sweet souls departed".

And so she is.

Pam & John Mandeville
Banner Wheatens