



**Farewell Service
for
Duke
age 7 years**



As we come together to say "farewell" to Duke, despite the sadness in your hearts, we will be grateful for all he has given you, all he has taught you and all he has shared with you.

Duke's life was filled with much joy and happiness and a lot of love.

A family comprises of a unit of love,
We start with parents and children are born, growing the family.

Janice and Ray, brought Kimberley, Amber and Conor into their family.
Born with love, nurtured and raised.

For everything you each bring to the family unit, there was still room for more, more love to be shared, more space to be filled, more time to give, more joy to share. All of which was waiting to be taken by a pet.

Both Janice and Ray grew up with dogs, they played an important part in their lives as children and young adults and also when they first married.

Kimberley, Amber and Conor were raised in a family home with dogs too, but 15 years passed without the presence of a furry friend in the home.

The children grown up, but still living at home, Janice longed for a dog to take its rightful place in the family and in their home. Kimberley did not want a dog and Ray was unsure, though this changed when Duke arrived. There was many a conversation, much thought, and much consideration. After much heart searching, driving home one day seeing some German Shepherd puppies for sale, they decided the time was right, however, Ray set a maximum distance to travel of 10 miles. Janice found a family with an Alaskan Malamute who had 8 puppies, 11 weeks old and 9.9 miles away. 5 were already taken but there was an adorable little male puppy available and waiting for them.

Having been birthed within a family home and remaining with his Mum and siblings for a reasonable period of time, this little puppy had a good temperament, was calm and patient.

Unsure what to name this little furry family addition, in conversation at work with colleagues, someone suggested the name 'Duke' to Janice.

And so, he was named Duke, which means leader.



Needless to say Duke was immediately loved by EVERY member of the family, quickly becoming a part of the family.

Ray took responsibility for ensuring Duke got 3 walks a day, though when it was time for his walk Duke didn't need telling, he would go to and sit by Ray.

He enjoyed his many regular walks at Archers Field and at the weekends at the secondary school grounds where Ray works.

2 years after joining the family, another addition arrived, a female Alaskan Malamute Akita cross – Aspen, who was to be a younger sister for Duke.

Duke's protective nature made him a good older brother for Aspen, someone she could look up to and for comfort and companionship.

Duke was also like this with all the other members of the family.

As Janice said, "He is a bit like Nana from Peter Pan, always the Protector."

Holidays for the family always included Duke and Aspen. Usually a few days by the sea, though Duke didn't like the sea, he would run away from the waves as they came towards him.

The last holiday the family had was to the Yorkshire Dales, where Duke and Aspen, as well as the rest of the family, enjoyed all the open space to run around and explore.

Unlike many large dogs, Duke was never greedy, he only ate what he needed, never searching for extra or titbits. He was extremely well behaved, very quiet, someone could walk in a room and not know he was there until they saw him, he was not a dog who barked much. Although playful when younger, he had a calm nature, loving and gentle. For such a big dog he could always be trusted with anyone and anything.

His passing aged only 7 years, was unexpected.

Words cannot express how much he will be deeply missed.

Whilst a living soul is a part of our family, they play an important part, are valued and treasured. When they leave us, they remain in our hearts, our thoughts and our memories.

The joys and experiences shared together remain.

The love that has been shared remains in your heart.





Think of Duke as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of him as living
In the hearts of those he touched
For nothing loved is ever lost –
And he was loved so much.

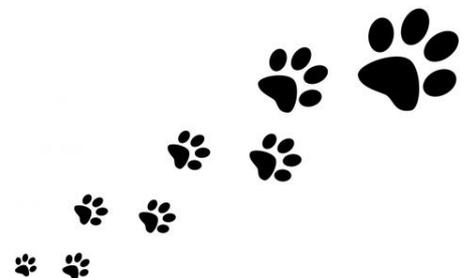
Tribute to a Best Friend

Sunlight streams through the window pane
onto a spot upon the floor...
then I remember,
it's where you used to lie,
but now you are no more.

Our feet walk down the hallway
and muted echoes sound...
then I remember,
It's where your paws would joyously abound.

A voice is heard along the road,
and up beyond the hill,
then I remember it can't be yours...
your golden voice is still.

So, I'll take that vacant spot of floor
and empty muted hall
and lay them with the absent voice
and unused dish along the wall.
I'll wrap these treasured memories
in a blanket of my love
and keep them for my dearest friend
in my heart forever more.





Each precious moment in life becomes a precious memory for those left behind and the life you have shared with Duke has created many happy memories which, are yours to keep forever.

Music

Bright Eyes
by Art Garfunkel

Time To Go Now

It's time for me to go now
My time on earth is through.
I wish I could have stayed
to have more time with you.

But I'll not be far,
I promise that, and hope you'll always know
that my spirit will be close to you
wherever you may go.

Thank you so for loving me.
You know I love you too,
that's why it's hard to say goodbye
and end this life with you.

So, hold me now in your heart
and let me hear you say,
because you care so much for me,
you'll let me go today.

As Winnie the Pooh said;
"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."





Duke,
we honour your life and your memory we cherish and will do so always.
Go safely into the mystery of whatever lies ahead.

Be free, know that you will be missed, that no one can replace you,
that you have loved and are loved.

Even though you are precious to us, we send you onwards, carrying with
you all the beauty of life which we have shared with you and with
blessings to cover you.

From the hands of those that love you,
Into the dance of stars above.
Into the clouds of silver and white,
Into the freedom of spirit and light.
On eagle's wings may you soar on high,
We release you Duke and we say goodbye.

Music

Adagio for Strings
by Samuel Barber



I'm still here, though you don't see
... And within your heart I long to stay.
My body is gone but I'm always near.
My spirit is free, but I'll never depart
As long as you keep me alive in your heart.