## Oscar's Death

Ken Kalish

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Our sweet, brave, loving, hilarious, gum-chewing Oscar left us today. She lived with us for almost ten years, longer than with any other owner. I have many wonderful stories to tell about this incredible member of our family, but right now I'm too damned close to bawling my eyes out. He was still warm when I went to check on him a few hours ago. He died lying on a thick mat of hay next to a bale from which he would pull an occasional nibble. He was still guarding the gate to the small paddock in which he lived, blind, but ready as ever to protect the smaller llamas he guarded. If there's no afterlife where Oscar, Molly, Tank, Toby, Seymour, Tanner, and little Lorenzo are waiting for me, then there isn't one to which I am interested in being consigned.

