

# *The Story of Molly and Sophie*

STROF Hospice Care (April – July, 2016)



In early April 2016, Scottish Terrier Rescue of Florida (STROF) was contacted by a gentleman who needed to surrender his 11 year old Scottie girl, Molly.

STROF was told that Molly had some health issues, and was having accidents (urinating in the house). As a result, she was confined for long periods of time.



We also learned that Molly had a Westie sister, 14 year old Sophie, to whom she was very strongly bonded.

Not wanting to separate the two girls, Molly and Sophie's owner surrendered both girls to STROF.

Sadly, it became apparent rather quickly that Molly's health issues were considerably more serious than urinary incontinence- she was soon



diagnosed with advanced lymphoma. (Lymphoma is a very common cancer in dogs that involves the lymphatic system- the system in the body that is responsible for defense against disease and infection.)

Sophie also had several health issues, including skin and ear infections. She was also completely deaf, but overall in fairly good health for such a mature gal!

Recognizing the severity of the health issues Molly and Sophie faced, in combination with their advanced age, STROF declared both girls to be permanent foster dogs (often referred to as "forever fosters") and set a plan in place to provide "hospice" care for both as long as they maintained a good quality of life.



Molly's foster mom did all she could to keep Molly well and happy. Molly had a comfortable bed in a lovely home with her sis Sophie at her side, a yard to explore when she felt well, and a chance to enjoy special treats such as a nice cool "frosty paws", maybe for the first time in her life.



Unfortunately, despite this excellent care Molly's health continued to decline and on April 27, 2016 she went to the Rainbow Bridge with her foster mom holding her and letting her know up until the very last second how much she was loved.

Sophie continued to do quite well for several additional months in foster/hospice care, settling in nicely with the resident dogs and household routine.



She adored snuggling on the sofa with her foster mom and going for daily walks and was even treated to a birthday celebration when she turned 15!

Sadly, Sophie's little body began to slow down, her appetite disappeared and she gradually lost interest in things that had previously given her joy.

It was time.



On July 24, 2016, the foster mom held her beloved Sophie and, along with the ER vet, assisted as Sophie crossed over to the Rainbow Bridge to join her dear Scottie friend, Molly.

Providing hospice care for foster dogs that are too old or sick to be placed into new homes is one of the most difficult but rewarding functions that STROF volunteers perform.

STROF feels that every dog deserves to live, and die, with dignity and to know that he/she is loved up to the very end.

*It was a privilege for STROF to be able to provide this small service to Molly and Sophie.*

*We know that these sweet girls are once again playing happily together at the Rainbow Bridge!*