

## **Dakota, Koty and sometimes Gloria for the Joy she has brought to our lives.**

We have always had large dogs in our lives, when we lost our Newfy at age nine and our Golden a year later at twelve we were devastated . We had a friend with a five year old Border Collie that was being tortured by their boxer and asked us to take him, certainly we did and he turned out to be a charming little guy who became a devoted companion.

But something was missing.....you have to understand we're in our golden years" so going through the puppy stage was not something that we wanted to tackle.

I started my search. To be completely truthful, I'd go between thinking that one dog was enough and I'd be ok with that for awhile but then this little voice inside would push me into thinking that one more would make us whole. So I began looking, then getting excited then the reaching the reality that we needed another.

And then along came Dakota. I first saw her on a site for rescue Newfie's. I knew the breed, the good and the bad and still found them the most affable dog around. She was beautiful! She was just what we had hoped for, a Landseer Newfie. As the process went forward I was informed that she was a service dog and had lost her master and then gone into rescue. I did have some doubts about how she would adapt to two masters and sharing with another dog and cat. These issues were put to rest as soon as she came to live with us.

To begin with she was a one man dog, my husband was thrilled! She stuck to him like glue, she would lay by the door and wait for him to come home if he was out for five minutes or five hours. This went on for several months but slowly came to see me as "lady who gives food." She has come around now and can't wait to go out with me on our morning walk. We are blessed to have twelve acres to roam around on away from cars and people.

We knew, having a previous Newfie that they don't live as long as smaller breeds. We knew that her previous life had been hard on her physically.

We made the decision to make her golden years the best of her life. She's worked so hard and gone through so much that she deserved the best that we could give her.

Ok, we spoil her. She goes on long walks, takes long naps, has all the toys she wants. When she first arrived she turned her nose up at dry food, the only way she would eat would be to mix it with lean ground beef or boiled chicken breasts, so she eats better than we do. She finds me at four pm every day and won't let me be until she has her dinner. They both eat then find me again for their teeth cleaning dog bones. Then it's out for another walk.

We've bought her two beds but she likes to lay on the floor next to our bed. She goes to the groomer every eight weeks and loves it. We both keep drool towels next to us to clean her beautiful face. We got used to the drool the hair, the big voice the placement of throws around the wood floors for traction, we wouldn't trade them for a million dollars. She brings us so much joy, so much love and laughter seeing her snuggle the cat or give her dog brother a wet lick on his nose. She loves the grandkids and is ok when strangers visit. She doesn't like cars or trucks, can't say I blame her. She's our dog,our family and we love her!

“Koty girl” has been with us for nine months now and we can’t imagine our lives without her.