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Losing Haley



We only suffer the death of a parent ,siblings, best friends once. But we animal lovers go through the devastation of losing a furry family member every decade or so. We all seem to agree that the excruciating pain at each passing is overshadowed by the unspeakably tender love we share with our pets.

I have heard from hundreds and hundreds of you over these past few days, since I lost my Scout, not only with your kind words of solace but naturally with your own stories of love and loss.



My friends Kelly Staley and Jourdan Fremin, just days before Scout's final moment, lost their Haley. Allow me to share their good-bye, which expresses so succinctly what draws us all to these special beings. (As for the photos of Haley, the first reminds me that so many of you wrote that, as I had with Scout, you shared the sweet ritual of communing forehead to forehead.)

Below Kelly and Jourdan's paragraph, there is a list from a veterinarian of the simple yet powerful lessons we learn from our dogs.

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Kelly and Jourdan:

It is with the heaviest of hearts, that we said goodbye to our sweet baby, Hailey, today. After almost 15 years of unconditional love and trusted companionship, we have taken our final walk together, logged our last road trip, snuggled inseparably through what felt like the darkest of nights. I will never forget your countless smiles that welcomed me home, making me forget even the longest of days when I walked through the front door. Your loyalty unmatched, understanding uncanny, tenderheartedness truly magical...all without ever being able to say a word. You touched my heart, where I now have a gaping hole. I was amazingly blessed and will be forever thankful and indebted that you came into my life. You are at peace and I will never be the same.

Live simply.

Love generously.

Care deeply.

Speak kindly.



Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.
- Take naps.

- Stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

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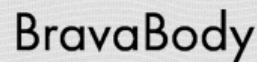
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

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