

A TRIBUTE TO RIPLEY

April 1st, 2001-October 11th, 2012



*CH/ INTERNATIONAL CH DONLYN'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT
CDX, WWCDX, PET PARTNER THERAPY DOG*

Ripley was a member of the cast for this year's "The Nutcracker" performance, but very sadly he passed away at home on October 11th, 2012 three weeks after being diagnosed with Hemangio Sarcoma, a fatal blood cancer that has no cure. He was very excited about being a part of the Nutcracker show; he would dance with excitement every time I put his costume on to practice for his role. I will greatly miss him by my side during the Dance of the Dewdrops. I was really looking forward to being his partner. Two of his litter mates are part of the performances; Natalie & Riley, which in a small way, will honor Ripley.

Ripley had been with me since the moment of his birth on April 1st, 2001 and I was with him when left this world too. He was born at home and I helped his mother Smuckers bring him into the world. It was such a joyous and exciting time. He was one of 5 puppies in the litter. I was able to experience each milestone that he had, from opening his eyes at ten days old, to his first wobbly steps, his 1st mighty howl and so many other milestones along the way. I kept three of the 5 puppies from this litter because they were all such beautiful puppies, they showed in the conformation and obedience rings. Ripley was especially close to his brother Riley. They were the best of friends and were usually by each other's side. Riley misses his brother and best friend a great deal. He kept searching for him after he passed and he still often lies in the spot that Ripley was last at.

Ripley and I accomplished so many wonderful things together. He was such an eager and willing partner in everything we did together. He got his AKC Championship Title at the age of two and then went on to get his International Championship Title shortly afterwards. He got several Best of Breed wins during his show career. We then went into the obedience ring and he got his CD & CDX Titles in both AKC and the World Wide Kennel Club, received many 1st place wins along the way. He was training for his Utility Title right before he passed away. Ripley accomplished many things in his show career, but I think his most important role was his work as a Therapy Dog. He became a Therapy Dog when he was one year of age. He did hundreds of Therapy Dog

visits over the years in many types of settings. His favorite visits were with children at READ visits, he loved to have the kids read a book to him while they petted him. Ripley also did many public education events, he represented the Shetland Sheepdog Breed at several Eukanuba Dog Shows and he was a fixture at the Florida State Fair's Pure Breed Dog Tent every year.

But mostly, Ripley was my beautiful, sweet, happy, constant companion. He was my couch cuddler who loved nothing more than lying in my lap getting petted and loved. He also loved being groomed, he would get so excited every time he was brushed and pampered. He would even try to push his way into my lap while I would groom the other dogs. Ripley was also a very "talkative" guy. He would follow me around the yard, jumping, happy and talking. He was such a happy, goofy beautiful friend that would do almost anything that I tried with him. His favorite trick was dropping to the floor quickly and rolling over, thus his nickname; Rip the flip. I miss him a great deal. I miss his daily morning greeting when I awake, he would greet me so happily as he jumped on me each morning and licked my face. I miss him following me around the house and walking in the yard together, I miss his shower time greetings as he would stick his head thru the shower curtain to say hello. I miss training with him. I miss his "talkative" barking when he was excited and in a playful mood. But, most of all, I miss sitting quietly with him while he lay on my lap as I petted him and loved him. He would look at me and make a sigh of complete contentment.

Upon his passing a friend and fellow Therapy Dog owner wrote to me and stated "there was never a better-loved dog in all the world". While I am sure other dogs have felt the same type of bond with their human friends, I truly love Ripley with all of my heart, I miss him more than words can express. He was a special, beautiful and much loved friend. A piece of my heart is missing since his passing, it went with him.

Wendy Waddick