



GCCOA Newsletter October 2020

### Days of Our Lives

The walks are less long  
 The naps are a little longer  
 The back and forth game  
 Is a little less energetic  
 But no less heart-felt

I remember when I met you  
 You shook in that cold metal cage  
 You said "please adopt me, I won't  
 be any bother"  
 with your big brown eyes.  
 You hid under the kitchen chairs at  
 first  
 Then you ate our socks to show  
 you were getting more  
 comfortable with us

Now I know you are growing old  
 But that puppy look comes often  
 into your eyes  
 That fleeting newness of life and  
 love  
 Now, you are even more precious.

*Lisa Quesne,  
 about Autumn  
 Joy, a mixed  
 black retriever  
 'pound puppy'  
 10 years old*



*Welcome* to our inaugural edition of *Pet Partners*, a newsletter celebrating the animals we share our homes and lives with and who give us love and friendship in return. In this newsletter, we hope to reach some fellow pet lovers who enjoy hearing about other pet partnerships, stories of unusual pets, some pet humor, and some ideas about coping with the loss of a pet. We hope it will be fun and informative. We also want to encourage you to share pet tales and ideas which we will feature in future newsletters.

### Quiz: Name that dog

*Can you name these famous dogs? (Answers below)*



- A. General George S Patton's white Bull Terrier was beside the general as the famous tank corps raced across Europe liberating Nazi-held territory.
- B. Barbara Bush wrote a book about President George H. W. Bush's English Springer Spaniel.
- C. In 19th century Scotland, this terrier became famous for refusing to leave the grave of his master for 14 years. The people of Edinburgh erected a statue of this loyal dog.

A. Willie; B. Millie; C. Grayfriars Bobby

# Pet Partners



## Goodbye to my cat Marlow

Since I live alone and my relatives live in other states, my two cats have been my "family," providing steady companionship and catly affection for 11 years. This summer of Covid staying home, I lost my boy Marlow to liver disease. He was sweet and loving, followed me from room to room, and would snuggle close when I sat down. It is amazing what a big hole a small 10-pound cat can make in your life. I put his picture on my phone so I see his beautiful face each time I pick up my phone.



– Jessica N Lange

## Animal Stars

**Famous Books:** Old Yeller, The Call of the Wild, National Velvet, The Incredible Journey, Travels with Charley, Lady and the Tramp, A Dog's Purpose, Marley & Me, The Art of Racing in the Rain, The Cat in the Hat

**Movies & TV dogs:** Toto, Lassie, Rin-Tin-Tin, Beethoven, Benji, Eddie (from Frasier)

**Cartoon dogs:** Snoopy, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Scooby-Doo, Max the Grinch's dog

*Everything I know I learned from dogs.* – Nora Roberts

## DOGS IN THE MILITARY

**Sallie** was the mascot of the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry during the American Civil War. In July 1963, after Sallie became separated from her troops during the first day at Gettysburg, her men found her three days later at their former location, guarding injured soldiers.

**Sgt. Stubby** served in World War I for 18 months, successfully saving his regiment from several surprise gas attacks and even once capturing a German soldier (by holding him by his pants). Thanks to his heroic efforts, Stubby is the only dog to ever be nominated for rank and subsequently promoted to sergeant.

**Chips** was a trained sentry dog for the Army who served his country well. He was also the most decorated dog from World War II.

**Lucca**, a German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, was a service dog trained to detect explosives. During her six-year stint with the Marines, she was sent twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

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Sixty-seven percent of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own a pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association.

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*About a month after my Mom suddenly passed away and we were trying to get used to the "new normal" without her and taking care of my Dad, we were pleasantly distracted by this blessing that came into our lives. A friend of ours found this kitten under a pile of leaves and was not able to keep her. It was a nice distraction from the tragedy our family was facing, and we were able to share our love by bottle feeding this little kitten we named Lily.* – Melissa Woehrman

We hope you enjoy this new publication, and welcome your comments and ideas for future issues. Please feel free to share your stories & pictures of your pets. Let us know if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.