

In Loving Memory of Texas Trace Daisy

January 20, 2004 - April 17, 2009

A true friend, a faithful and loyal companion with a impressive pedigree was placed with a great family shortly after she was whelped. She died unexpectedly and we received the following series of emails from the owner which we provide here as a tribute to Daisy.

Daisy passed away this evening, the cause un-known. We were playing, left her alone for 15 minutes and when I came back, she had collapsed and had already passed. There were no signs of trauma so I feel she died quickly.

We did have an autopsy performed and it was inconclusive. All of her internal organs were fine. Her heart, lungs, liver, everything was healthy and strong. Her airway was open and her stomach contents were normal. Little Thomas and I were playing with her Friday evening in our back yard and we left her for about 15 minutes while we checked the sprinklers in the front yard. When we came back, she had trampled a little 18" tall wire garden fence and collapsed in the garden and she had already passed.

It's been really difficult because we had never known her to have any seizures of any kind and she was so healthy. I've tried relentlessly to find a definite cause, but the way I found her, along with the autopsy report and no witnesses, we will never know for sure what happened.

Daisy's passing has been pretty hard on us so far. She was my baby girl. I always referred to her as my "first born". Her personality was one in a million. She never bit or snapped at any animal or our young son Thomas no matter how much

he may have deserved it.

She always hated to be alone. She knew about what time I usually got home from work and she would always be waiting at the gate outside watching for me to pull in to the driveway. She was very faithful and obedient. Sometimes, I would hop on our 4-wheeler and start slowly riding and Daisy would trot beside me until she got tired and then I would put her on my lap and drive her around the farm.

She was always happy and I would take her to the mountains to visit my parents, brothers and sister. She really enjoyed my little sister, Kerry. Kerry wouldn't let go of her until it was time for us to come back home. She would even let Daisy sleep in her bed at night.

My brother, Jonathan never had any pets because of allergies and he often would get aggravated because "pets" demand so much attention, but, he fell in love with Daisy and made me promise not to tell the rest of the family.

My dad, who is often pretty stand-offish towards animals, always bragged about Daisy to the rest of the family and his friends.

The last time we visited our family, Daisy spent several hours on my grandmother's lap.

Little Thomas was so proud of his Daisy. He took her everywhere with him. I have a picture somewhere of him laying down sound asleep using Daisy as a pillow.

She really has touched a lot of lives, and although her death was very premature, we are all just thankful for the time she did give us. I'm sure that she taught me more than I could've ever taught her.

I do know that we have some great memories and pictures and that she knew how much she meant to us. Daisy was a very special companion and our family is very fortunate to have been blessed with her. I'm making 2 memorial "Daisy" gardens, one here at home and one at our farm. She always loved free-ranging at the farm and swimming in the creek.

I never got to hunt with Daisy, because we didn't get our farm until last year. She did, however, like chasing the rabbits right off the bat. She would take off across the field and I bet her stomach wasn't an inch from dragging the ground. She was really fast. She was even known to sneak down to the creek and pull out a trout or two.

Daisy will be sorely missed. We thank you for giving her to us and we wanted to let you know that she gave us the best five years and she changed all our lives. I know that we will all have an empty place in our hearts.

Well, I would like to thank you again for lending an ear and helping us find another Boykin that we can raise in Daisy's memory.

Sincerely,

Andy, Dawn & Thomas Blackburn

The happy news is that we have a puppy ready for the family and she should arrive in their welcoming arms soon.



Dear God: Love. The Dog

Dear God: Is it on purpose our names are the same, only reversed?

Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?

Dear God: If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God: Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God: Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good Dog.

1. I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up. 2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell. 3. The litter box is not a cookie jar. 4. The sofa is not a 'face towel'. 5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff. 6. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet. 7. Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is an unacceptable way of saying "hello". 8. I don't need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm under the coffee table. 9. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before, not after, entering the house. 10. I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt. 11. I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch. 12. The cat is not a 'squeaky toy', so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.

BOYKING AROUND IN HITCHCOCK WOODS

When I moved to Aiken in 2007, my new mom introduced me to the sport of "Boyking." This is where you take one or more Boykin Spaniels and activate them in a wooded setting. The human attempts to keep up with the Boykins, which as you can imagine is pretty funny to watch.

If you live close to Aiken or ever come



Allie-Gator

through, make sure your humans take you for a walk in Hitchcock Woods. There are some rules for all dogs. If you can't control your excitement, your human will need to keep you on a leash. Naturally, I'm perfect at all times and can run off leash. You can't run up to other dogs and act aggressive or anything like that. You can't scare the horses, and sometimes, as big as they are, all it takes is a dog bouncing around in the bushes to make them start bucking or run off at a gallop. Horses can also kick you or hurt you so watch yourself. From October through March, the Aiken Hounds meet in these woods, and you should not be there when the hounds are working or you will be injured or worse. Your human should take some water so you can have a drink. And even if you are perfect like I am, it would be a good idea to take a leash with you.

My cousin Scotty almost always goes Boyking. He is also a grandchild of Miss Dixie, same as I am. We are best friends.

Refund goes with us sometimes. Refund is a Cocker Spaniel and is almost blind but manages very well on our trips to the woods. He told me he uses his ears and his nose to sort out the location of things, so our mom can let him run off the leash also.

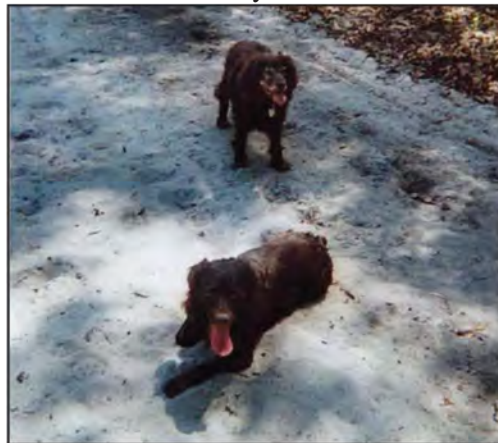


Mom has to talk to him a lot so he can follow her voice as we walk.

Here is the official web site for Hitchcock Woods, <http://www.hitchcock-woods.org/>. The map is fairly accurate, but at most entrances you can find pre-printed maps for your humans to use. Naturally, all of us can find our way around with no problems. I have lots of favorite trails.

Sometimes we park on Dibble Road and walk in past the site of the old Tea Cottage. The rich folks who made Aiken famous used to have picnics there back in the days when there really was a house. Actually, there are two places to park along Dibble Road. As you are getting into the woods from either Dibble Road entrance your human should keep an eye on you or keep you on a leash because the traffic on Dibble can be quite fierce sometimes.

At one end of Dibble, you can turn into the drive for Stable by the Woods. This



landowner furnishes a small parking area where it is safer for us, but this is also a parking area for horse trailers so you have to beware of the horses. A dog named Brady lives here. He looks a little scary because he's a Rottweiler mix, and I personally don't care for him because he tries to get fresh and forgets he's been neutered. Sometimes, Brady tags along whether you like it or not if you enter from here, but this entrance is the closest to Black Gum Pond, my favorite swimming place.

South Boundary Avenue dead ends into Hitchcock Woods, and there you can find another smaller but safe parking lot in that it's away from street traffic. The first trail here is called Devil's Backbone. So far the only devil we've ever seen was a guitar player from New York City who was acting kind of strange. Mom said something about weed I didn't understand because

there are weeds everywhere out there, and they don't seem to bother me. Past Memorial Gate is the Horse Show Grounds.

We just recently discovered yet another good parking place on Clark Road. That area leads up and down a lot of hilly trails like Low Country Ride and lots of places to find a drink since there are so many natural springs.

Almost all of the trails feature horse jumps called "Aikens." These are wide fences with tree limbs banked up against a plain post and fence to give it width. Mom likes to throw a ball over the fence to make us jump over to get the ball and then jump back over to give her the ball. Sometimes we fool her by running around the exits that are beside each fence. After all that running and jumping, sometimes a nap in the cool sand is just what I need.

Teach your humans about The Hitchcock Woods and come join us for a great time "Boyking!" Give me a call if you need a tour guide.

- Allie Grice Watts

