

In Memoriam



Gryphon Foster
Born December 12, 1996
Died January 14, 2010
"We Love You, Big Dog"

12:00 noon Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010

Gryphon, our 13-year-old male dog, died a couple of hours ago.

We took all three girls out of school to go to the pet hospital, but he died shortly after they called us to say he was being put on oxygen so, although they got to see and pet his body, he didn't have any family members at the very end.

Anastasia was devastated because he had been her favorite since she visited the U.S. in the summers of 2006 and 2007. She also liked his sister, Tasmin, who passed in July 2008 before Anastasia could come here to live permanently. She loved both dogs, though, but focused all of attention on Gryphon when he was the only dog still here on her arrival. (He was still her favorite over the two, new, female puppies we adopted last spring.)

It's tough on all of us because Patricia and I had Gryphon and Tasmin since they were about 12 weeks old back in February 1997, so most of the time we've been married. We had them in puppy kindergarten, basic obedience, intermediate training and a few years in canine agility (obstacle courses and stuff). They were great companions for Mariya and Nina when they first arrived and both dogs had good lives with us.

Now it's just the two little pups that we got for the girls. It's not the same kind of companionship as Gryphon was for me being a male dog and being larger. He and I went out to get the mail and take out the trash late every night and he almost always stayed up or slept by me until I went to bed, long after the girls and Patricia had gone to sleep.

Anyway, he had a great life and a good family that loved him and paid attention to him. It just hurts to lose him. If you get a chance, please visit our dogs' Web site, "Gryphon and Tasmin's 'Walkin' the Web'" and photo gallery:

<http://www.dogwatcherer.com/wedogs.html>

Michael Foster