

Memorial for Chloe Stokes

Two and a half years ago, Amanda Stokes stopped by the Saturday MARF Adoptathon with a friend. A beautiful tall, senior girl, who clearly had Border Collie and Black Lab in her, stood up and caught Amanda's eye. Her name at the time was Pepper and she had the most wonderful, expressive eyes. She captured Amanda's heart, even though she was not there to adopt a dog.

So, Chloe, as she quickly became, went home with her new mama. They spent those two and a half years cherishing everything they did together. And they did everything together: went on long walks, took long drives, visited friends, shared treats! They were best friends and loved their time together.



The middle of February, Chloe had a bad fall, so Amanda took her to the emergency room. An x-ray showed hip dysplasia, but it also showed a huge tumor that was clearly malignant. Although Chloe saw the doctor on a regular basis, she was a senior after all, the tumor had not been noticed. So, Amanda took her to her regular doctor the next day, who agreed with the first diagnosis. They also said she was older than previously thought. She was at least 12. Given the size of the tumor, her age and the affect of aggressive treatment, they made the decision to relieve her of her pain. Amanda sat on the floor of the vet's office, cradling that big girl, singing to her as she left this world.

We have all cried about Chloe, but I know we will see her again! She brought a rare gift to Amanda and to everyone who knew her. Please accept this memorial in Chloe Stokes memory.

Kathy Wooten Hale