



Bono (left) with Badger. JULIE LAWRENCE PHOTO.

Bono

ONE OF THE MOST difficult parts of being connected to the sanctuary and its residents is dealing with the loss of one of our friends – in this case, Bono, who passed away in February.

We have known for a while that Bono's time was coming. Late last year, Bono presented with nasal bleeding and we suspected either oral or nasal cancer. A mass began to grow in the maxillary area (which is not treatable) and the oncologist that we consulted felt that we were dealing with a squamous cell carcinoma. As with all of our terminal cases, the best course of action was to manage the pain and ensure quality of life.

For months, Bono's appetite and activity levels remained normal- in fact his appetite, which has always been "robust", continued to be so, despite the increasing size of his

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Director of Animal Care

growth. We knew however, that eventually we would get to a point where the bad moments outweighed the good and that time arrived on Wednesday, February 26. Out of honor and respect for our friend, we made the decision to ease his suffering and Bono was humanely euthanized.

Even though Bono was only with us for a little over two years, he probably lived more fully in those two years than he ever had in the 12 years prior, during which he was chained to a stake in the ground at Wolf Country. Here, he discovered grass and trees and freedom to run. He was able to roll and dig and mark wherever he wanted to. Most importantly, he discovered the joys of canine companionship with Badger, a gentle, older female who patiently

showed him how to enjoy and embrace his "wolfiness."

Although Bono had wolf in him, he also had a quite a bit of dog and because he was an older guy (almost 15 at the time of his passing) he had a lot of old dog characteristics. Most notably was his open-mouthed, loud breathing and panting; his motor was always running and we could often hear him before we saw him. And when we did see him, because he was always panting excitedly, he looked like he had a grin permanently affixed on his face. His "smile" made us smile.

Because of your generosity of spirit Bono was able to know kindness and compassion and a life free from chains. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your continued support. 