

Jinkies

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JULIE LAWRENCE PHOTO.

THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH at an animal rescue is an ever-turning wheel; as the sun sets on the earthly journey of some wolves, the sun is just rising for those that have found a new home here. Planning for the passing of older animals is never pleasant, but as responsible animal caretakers, it is our job to be aware and have plans in place for any circumstance or outcome that may arise. I personally feel that following a deliberate and thoughtful plan of care for an older animal helps me come to terms with the inevitable outcome. This “elder care” work can include making sure an animal’s twilight years are as comfortable as possible, working on the common problem of how to get them to take their medication, or even making contingency plans if they will be leaving a companion behind. I find that this kind of planning with our older animals helps make their eventual transition from this world to the next easier for them and for me.

The losses that hit me the hardest are those where it seems you wake up in the morning and someone is gone. Such is the way I felt about Jinkies’ passing. It was as if I was standing on the sidelines saying, “What just happened?” Like her sister Cricket, Jinkies passed away suddenly from a congenital pulmonary/cardio condition.

Jinkies was such a sweet girl; easygoing (except maybe around food) and seemingly content to watch the world go round from the top of her hill. I think that is how many people will remember her as well. Jinkies loved to lie on the hill in her enclosure that overlooked part of the visitor area; people could often see her lounging in the sun. This also led to Jinkies being one of the most photographed wolves at Wolf Haven – photo tour groups loved to stop by her enclosure. Jinkies seemed to enjoy the attention, and would ‘pose’ on the hill for pictures.

I’ll always remember Jinkies sitting on her hill, intently watching the happenings of the world. I like to imagine she thought she was the supervisor of the visitors, always keeping an eye out, although, truthfully, she was probably just keenly watching for the food truck! Of course, that’s also how I’ll remember Jinkies... a little pudgy!

Jinkies has left a big void here at Wolf Haven not only to the staff and volunteers, but to Bart, her brother, as well. Bart’s solo howling was heard throughout the day & night in the weeks that followed her death, a sad reminder of Jinkies’ passing. That’s why we are so happy to announce the arrival of Samantha, a new friend for Bart. Please see page 11 to meet Samantha.

Jinkies, your gentle spirit and fun personality made such an impact on all of us here, and you are greatly missed. See you again someday, little big girl.

