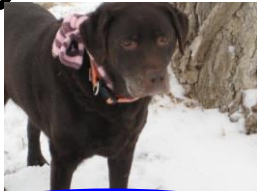


# Gracie Allen



9/3/00 – 2/4/14

Sue fell in love with chocolate labs at an airport years ago after playing with a puppy on his way to Colorado. She especially liked touching his “amazing soft ears”. When Sue was ready for some “grace” in her life – she set out to visit the Sho-Me-Labradors, a Lab breeder – just to see what might be possible. <http://www.shomelabradors.com/shomelabs/homepage.jsp>

And, it didn't take long for a cute puppy to adopt Sue; “her eyes and smile snagged me and we went home”. Gracie was named in honor of the comedian and wife of George Burns and was only 8 weeks old when she attached herself to Sue. Gracie moved in with Sue – and 2 cats – and loved chasing the cats around the house; Gracie quickly became the leader of the pack. As a youngster, Gracie loved to chase snowflakes, or chase just about anything and would run off and do her own thing. But Gracie mostly enjoyed the attention of the humans and would be most content to be the center of attention. She loved to get petted and in return she gave great kisses.

Gracie thought car rides were over rated; in fact, cars made Gracie throw up a lot as a puppy, but in later life she learned to tolerate because

there were always new people to meet, old friends to visit or new places to swim or explore.

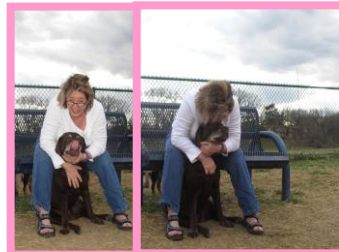
Gracie had quite an active life but had both ACLs replaced with titanium plates & screws in each knee when she was 2.5 years old. The surgery provided great results until the last year and half at which point Gracie couldn't jump into car anymore and used an extra step for assistance.

Jake, a yellow Lab, joined the pack in 2002 and was young, energetic, and high strung; he had to be first out the door or walking in front and Gracie just let him. She was content to follow behind – they became very good pals. Gracie and Jake – **big water lovers!** If Gracie found a puddle, she would get right in it. They loved swimming at Lake of Ozarks, Meramec River, an occasional lake, and of course, the pools at the dog park. Gracie loved to shake the water off on Sue.

Gracie didn't like her crate much but had it pretty good – a lifetime of soft cushions in the living room and both bedrooms – or snuggling with Sue, Jake, or Colt, the cat. Gracie loved people – and people food, too.



Unfortunately, both Gracie and Jake got food and ear allergies. Gracie seemed to always have something going on with her ears between the infections and the hematomas she frequently got from shaking her head



and banging her ears on the table.

Gracie & Sue went everywhere together & were devoted to each other – unless Gracie got more attention from someone else, that is. Gracie had a great life and left Sue with many fond memories including a few furniture chew marks – Gracie kinda had a chewing that she never really outgrew.

“Gracie was the best friend I ever had”

Sue recalls that Gracie liked wearing her winter sweater and making the rounds at the dog park. If she didn't get what she wanted – she went to the next person. Gracie always knew how to get Sue's attention – either by a physical nudge, eye ball guilt trip, or powerful vocals. Gracie always greeted Sue with a happy face – they were crazy about each other. Gracie loved to have her ears scratched or belly rubbed.

## Gracie's Last Fun Ride

Gracie started getting a little senile, pacing thru the night; Sue knew the time had come. With assistance from Gavin



Hooks, DVM, one of SWCDP Vet Sponsors, Gracie passed over the Rainbow Bridge on February 4. Both Sue and Jake miss Gracie very much and she will always be in their hearts.