

Camille,

Only the hardest of the hard-hearted would be able to read this without being moved. I probably wouldn't have had the courage to read your editorial about Koji if you hadn't sent it to me and asked me to read it, but, I'm glad I did. Tears and everything. Thank you. It is a wonderful tribute to a wonderful dog. I think he is probably smiling, feeling appreciated and telling some great stories about his devoted family.

XX Trudy Schneider from Anmore
November, 13, 2009

Hi Camille

Sorry about Koji. I enjoyed reading your upcoming editorials. We do get so much out of our pets it seems unfair that we always outlive them.

We are leaving tomorrow for our Arizona winter. We are putting an addition on the Park trailer we bought. Starting on November 30th.

I was looking at your website. You have a lot of work ahead of you!

Cheers,

Dave Tribe from Comox, BC
November 13, 2009

Dear Camille and Robert,

So sorry to hear of Koji's passing. He was a gentle warrior.

Candice Davidson from Anmore
November 13, 2009

... a lovely tribute to a loyal and faithful friend.

Hugs,

Lynn Burton from Anmore
November 13, 2009

Camille,

Well, my old laptop needs a blood transfusion to open this New Version of Word file so I will write my thoughts and try to open it later (after the blood transfusion).

When it comes to pets, you and me are on the same page: Devoted to Animals, page one. I had my favourite cat - Trout, the Magnificent, die in my arms in February 4 days after I arrived here in Istanbul. It was a shock. He was 4 1/2 and healthy 4 hours earlier. I will never know why.

KOJI was a special animal for me from the first glimpse of him as a whitish-grey fuzz ball down under the tree at the ranch with the 5 Akita pups. Love at first sight, it was. And I got a lot of mileage here in Istanbul with the story of my friends in Canada who let their virgin Akita - who was too picky to mate with her own kind - outside for a pee without her panty. I remember the description of your cognition of this fact and then her ladyship not wanting to come in when called, followed by the sight of her frolicking with the wolf from the ranch next door...

When I tell the story, I tell it my way with lots of imagined details. My audience is always enthralled. People here know about wolves. They were the scourge of Anatolia throughout the history of the nomads who settled here over the last 2000 years. Turkey has special Kangol and Akbash dogs with heavy fur and well over 100 pounds, more like 150, with their ears clipped and heavy spiked leather collars so the wolves can't get at the neck. I've seen them in the mountains way out east where the Ark is supposed to have found dry land. They are very people friendly and it was difficult to imagine their ferocity out on patrol.

I used to have a picture of Koji in my camera to illustrate my story and this was the really impressive evidence that Canadians could have a 150 pound wolf sleeping on their sofa! (My sofa now) ha ha People here remember that story and ask about Koji sometimes.

One friend Kadir, A Kurdish man who is the same size as Robert, bought himself a purebred white Samoid female after seeing Koji's picture. Funny thing is, she won't cover either, maybe she needs a wolf.

I guess all good things pass with dogs. The big ones don't live as long as the little yappy ones and the purebreds don't live as long as the mutts. Koji lived a long time for a dog but I understand that wolves live longer than dogs so maybe it was the mutt part that gave him his vigour.

It will be hard to think of your home without Koji.

Much love to all of you,

Suzy from Istanbul, Turkey
November 14, 2009

Oh Camille,

So sorry to hear of your loss. Karam and I felt how devastating the loss of Koji would be to you and Robert the night you were here for dinner and talking about the prospect of losing him soon. He was a beautiful dog.

Take Care,

Amar and Karam from White Rock, BC
November 14, 2009

Good Morning Camille,

As I write this I have tears in my eyes. Great editorial.

Take Care,

Cherri Woode from Anmore
November 14, 2009

Camille,

Awww --- nice article & sorry to hear that your Koji has passed on. My dog is 12 soon & I am hoping we have some good yrs left.

Take care

Linda Van Breugel from Mt. Lehman, BC
November 14, 2009

Dear Camille and Rob,

So sorry to hear about Koji. I am a huge dog lover too and can empathize. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

Sincerely,

Sandy Parfeniuk from Anmore
November 14, 2009

I'm so sorry Camille. I sympathize to what you are all going through. It is really amazing of how those little creatures become so much part of us!

Koji will be missed.

Hugs.

Eny Hoffer from Anmore

November 14, 2009

Camille,

Sorry to hear of your loss! Well written article and great pictures.

Eglal Nassif from Toronto, Ontario

November 15, 2009

Hi guys,

Am in Calgary babysitting 5 animals.

Wanted to say sorry for your loss. Boy does it hurt.

xo

Liz Haver from Courtney, BC

November 15, 2009

Camille

Very sorry about the loss of your beloved Koji. I can only imagine how much of a loss he will be for your family.

Great article,

Sherry Carr from Cathedral City, California

November 15, 2009

Dear Robert and Camille,

We were so sorry to learn you had lost Koji.

Our thoughts are with you as we know how much a pet means to a family. Please take care and give Rosie a big snuggle!

Kim, Bob, Brett, Kelsey and Cubby Morden
November 15, 2009

Camille –

I am so sorry for your loss. How sad! I hope his passing was gentle. It will be 2 years ago on the 27th of this month that I sent my own dear Mr. T on his way.

I hope to see him at the Rainbow Bridge when it's my turn to pass....

Joanne Dolan from Edmonton, Alberta
November 16, 2009



Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as

we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.
The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.
They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Morning Camille,

I'm so sorry to hear about Koji, My condolences to you and Robert and your other dog.

Thank for stepping up for the Anmore Alternative. I'll try to help out when I can.

I think Justin will try to get some pics together for you tonight, I will remind him again.

I have not been taking pictures lately, I injured my back late August and have, since then, funded my physiotherapist's trip to Mexico. I'm starting to gain stamina and will soon be running around for some Wandering Wade input.

Take Care,

Wade and the Parrish's from Anmore
November 17, 2009

Hi Robert and Camille:

I am sorry to hear about Koji. We've been in Mexico for the past week, so I just saw your email. I couldn't open the article you sent, but did read it on the Anmore Alternative. Very well written.

On an interesting note, we are getting a dog today. It is a 15 month old wired fox terrier named Luci. Her owner passed away a few weeks ago. I will show your lovely words about positives about being a dog owner.

Lisa Klassen from Anmore
November 17, 2009
