

Chobi - a life

Chobi died of old age on January 20th 2005. He was 16 and had never suffered a day's illness in his life. Through his dignity and charm he captured the hearts

of the hundreds of people he met.

Words cannot express what sadness we all feel in his passing, he was truly a dog in a million.



チョビは2005年1月20日に天寿をまっとうしました。16年間、ただの一日も病に伏せることなく。威厳と魅力を兼ね備えた彼は、生前に出会った何百という人たちの心を「とりこ」にしました。彼を失って、私どもの悲しみがどれほど大きいか、言葉には尽せません。チョビこそは、まさしく、めったに出会えない最高の犬でした。



Remembering Chobi

In the summer of '96 I made my first visit to ARK as a volunteer. In the beginning there were so many dogs that it was difficult to remember names and faces, but a few dogs began to make indelible impressions and Chobi was definitely in this group. He gave you his utmost attention when spoken to, and his gaze was always reassuring. My wife often comments that the wisest and most intelligent people usually say the least and listen the most, that's how I would describe Chobi. One volunteer told me that his dream was to live in an isolated log cabin alone with Chobi.

I spent most of my time with Chobi at festivals, bazaars and other functions that ARK was invited to join. As ARK's designated ambassador, Chobi usually attended and was the centre of attention as soon as he entered the room. His friendly, non-threatening manner never ceased to win over even the most hardened skeptics. This was especially true with children. I can remember having telepathic conversations with him as five or six kids would be trying to hug him at the same time. He would shoot a somewhat resigned glance at me. "Sorry pal." "No problem, it's part of the job you know."

『虹の橋』

天国の一步手前に、『虹の橋』と呼ばれる場所がある。地上にいるだれかと親しくしていた動物は、死ぬとその『虹の橋』へ行く。

そこには、草地や丘がひろがっていて、動物たちはいっしょになって走ったり遊んだりすることができる。

たっぷりの食べ物と水、そして日の光に恵まれ、彼らは暖かく、快適に過ごしている。病気がかかっていたり歳をとったりしていた動物たちは、ここに来て健康と活力を取り戻し、傷ついたり不具になったりした動物たちも、もとおりの丈夫な体を取り戻す。過ぎ去りし日の夢の中でのように。

動物たちは幸せに暮らしているけれど、ひとつだけ不満がある。それぞれにとって特別なだれかが、あとに残してきただれかがいないのを寂しく感じているのだ。

動物たちはいっしょに遊んで時を過ごしている。しかし、ついにある日、そのうちの一匹が足を止めて遠くに目を向ける。目はきらきらと輝き、体はたまりかねたように小刻みに震えはじめる。突然、彼はみんなから離れて、緑の草地を跳ぶように走っていく。

あなたを見つけたのだ。

とうとう出会えたあなたたちは、抱き合って再会を喜びあう。もはや二度と別れることはない。喜びのキスがあなたの顔に降りそそぎ、あなたの両手は愛する友の頭と体をふたたび愛撫する。そして、あなたは信頼にあふれたその瞳をもう一度のぞきこむ。あなたの人生から長いあいだ姿を消していたが、心からは一日たりとも消えたことがないその瞳を。

それから、あなたたちはいっしょに『虹の橋』を渡るのだ。

People were always in awe of Chobi's good nature. Some would ask how we got him to be like this as if he had drank some magic elixir or had some surgical procedure done. "He lives in the house as a loved and valued member of a family. He is affectionately hugged or touched several times each day, that's all there is to it", would be my response.

As Chobi got older he made fewer appearances but his tranquil nature never changed. In the eight years I knew him, I never once heard him growl or snap at a human or non-human animal. Even at the end, he was the picture of peace and contentment. Surrounded by loving staff and doggie friends, Chobi passed peacefully out of our presence and into an everlasting sleep. And although many tears of sorrow were shed, we all knew it was time for Chobi to be on his way and for us to say good-bye. The sadness and grief we feel is deep, but it could never eclipse the joy, wonder, warmth and genuine love that we felt while he was here with us. And in time these will be the things that remain.

Good-bye dear friend. You've earned a long, good rest. I'll be looking for you at the rainbow bridge. Jeff Bryant