

Remembering Mishka

Mishka Maloney Murphy was born May 9, 1995 in Niederwald, TX to a couple who raised Border Collies & Australian Shepherds. Her Momma went in heat & her Daddy jumped the fence, producing an adorable litter of pups. At 6 weeks old, Mishka jumped into my lap and has not left my side in almost 17 years. I didn't pick Mishka; she picked me. During the first few months of her life, she was allowed to go to work with her new mom, where she slept on my desk until she got too big and had to sleep under the desk.



Mishka loved life and she loved to travel anywhere and everywhere, even if it was in the car to go to the corner store, always hanging out the window.



Her favorite activities were playing Frisbee and swimming. Then, if Frisbee AND swimming were combined, she would be in complete bliss. She would jump in the air to catch the Frisbee while jumping in the water. She played non-stop; never wanting to stop.



She also enjoyed catching bubbles. She would run after them and jump up to catch them in mid-air.

On her 1st Birthday, she patiently waited while her mom put a candle in her first steak and put on a birthday hat. The years after that, she got double cheeseburgers on her birthdays until the age of 15. From thereafter, she was treated to steaks on her birthday. Although she didn't make it to 17 years, on her final night she was treated to a large t-bone steak, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

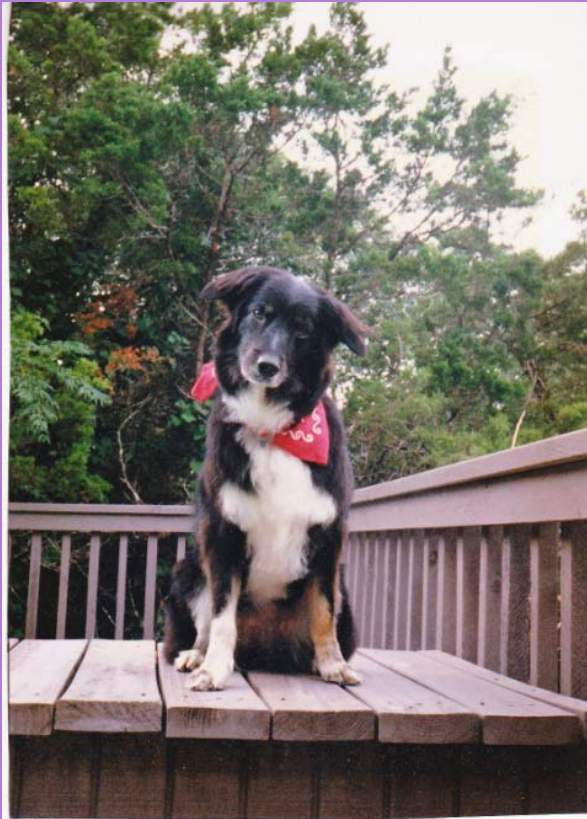
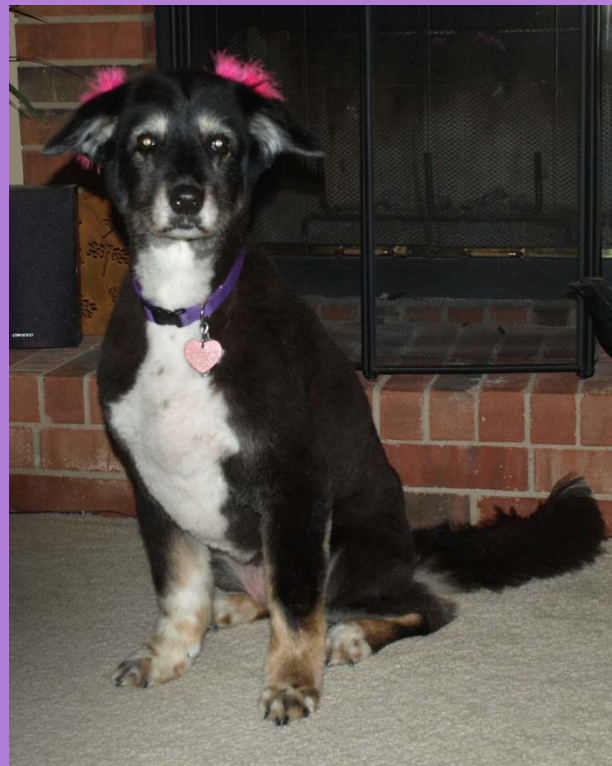


She saw snow a few times in her life here in Texas. When you threw a snowball, she was perplexed as to what happened to the "ball" when it landed; balls aren't supposed to disappear!



She absolutely loved the beach. She enjoyed the challenge of the surf to retrieve her Frisbee and would return to shore, where she would roll in the sand to celebrate her achievement and then verbally announce that she was ready to go in again.

She loved to go camping, hiking and boat riding too. True to her herding capabilities, she would lead the single file line hiking, consistently running to the back of the line to check on her momma, then hurrying back to the front of the line to lead the group on.



Mishka was extremely bright and intelligent and always eager to learn; and she learned everything fast. Her grasp and understanding of the English language always amazed people. Once, when she was only a few years old, her Grandma Jane asked her if she would take her pig's ear off the back porch. So, Mishka came and took the treat off the porch and out into the backyard to enjoy it. She knew all her stuffed toys by name and would retrieve the specific toy when requested. She was always respectful and never destructive with any of her toys. She played hard but was always gentle. However, she always won when playing tug-of-war. She loved when we watched the UT football games, yelling with everyone when a score was made.

Mishka was always a healthy dog. At the age of 12, she underwent a hip replacement due to hip dysplasia which is common in Border Collies. She recovered well after the surgery and was back to swimming and catching Frisbees again.



Mishka absolutely loved people and NEVER met a stranger. She would greet people “wagging” her body in half to say hello. She was constantly eager to please everyone. She was a pure and comforting soul who never expected anything from anyone, but gave everything she had to everything she experienced. She was God’s unconditional Love embodied in a perfect being.

Close to the end of her life, she spent her days close to her momma, as always. She still played with her toy that dispensed dog treats when pushed with her nose. While the toy was purchased for her youngest sister, Mishka was the one who mastered how to get the treats out. She enjoyed sitting in the backyard with everyone while the other dogs played. She had no problem voicing her opinion about the other dogs playing. She wanted to join them, but due to her lack of mobility, she was hindered from joining in the fun.



Less than 30 days shy of her 17th birthday, she could go no more and made her journey to Rainbow Bridge at 2:25 pm on Wednesday, April 11, 2012. She is there catching Frisbees and swimming again waiting for the day we come to join her again.

