



TIKA

FEBRUARY 14, 2001 -
MARCH 9, 2015



The shelter received the Aussie-mix pup twice in 4 months--too wild for the first family, too wild for the 2nd family, so she went to rescue, and thence to my household, to become Tika.

For the first year, she followed me everywhere and copied everything that I did. Trim a shrub? She'd pull branches off, too.

She was fearless--except of any vet's office, so visits required a tranquilizer an hour before.

She loved to snuggle. She loved to play tug. She loved to chase a toy or frisbee--she had an astounding ability to be where the frisbee came low--but wasn't keen on bringing toys back.

Houseguests of any size or age delighted her, and she'd demonstrate full nubber-wiggling, dancing happiness to see people arrive.

Her intelligence knew no bounds. She loved the clicker (and the treats that

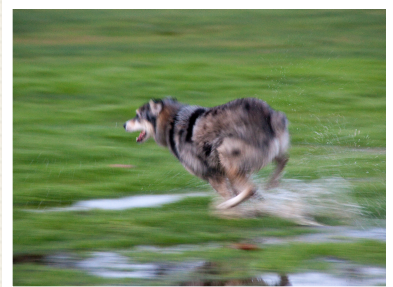
came with it) and learned trick after trick, including the wonderful trick of Dog Agility. She earned multiple championships and made it into the Top Ten in her group, in four categories for two years. We went to the Nationals many times, but truly she just loved running fast and being my teammate.

Blasting in and out of waves at the beach also thrilled her, as did flying through the snow or running ahead off leash on a trail to show the way.

Congestive heart failure sidelined her, but she outlived predictions of her demise by two happy years.

The vet came to our yard to give her a comfortable end. Tika hadn't moved from her spot all day, but as she saw him arrive, she lifted her head and wiggled her nubber tail, delighted to see a houseguest one last time.

I miss her oh so much.



TIKA WOKE UP PANTING AND NEVER STOPPED UNTIL SHE SLEPT. SHE WAS A MERLE GIRLIE WITH A MISSION, AND I THINK THAT SHE ACHIEVED IT.

