



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DOG PATTI GIRL

Compiled and Written by Jerry D. Petersen





Patti
July 29, 2012 ~ August 7, 2017 (age 5)



Well, Patti adopted me from the moment she come home. She was my shadow! When I was home, Patti girl was nearby. She slept in my bedroom from day one – most of the time on my bed. While our male Rottweiler Monty stayed near my wife, Patti was with me.

Here is a recap of Patti's short life.



World traveler – Not too many dogs have a “Pet” Passport. Patti had one that contained her name, breed, birth date, weight, color, etc. plus her complete medical record plus the most important piece of information – her microchip number. When she went through Customs, they scanned this embedded microchip number and compared it to the one on the passport. The trip to Mililani, Hawaii covered more than 9800 miles. Patti left the breeder’s house just outside of Bucharest, Romania by SUV for a three-day road trip of 750 miles through the countries of Hungary and Austria on her way to Munich, Germany. There, she was loaded on an “animals only” transport plane. Yes, Patti was traveling with other dogs and cats plus an assortment of zoo animals on their way from Europe to the United States. The plane ride from Munich to Newark, New Jersey was 4070 miles. Patti went through Customs at Newark International Airport. The next “leg” of the long trip was 2450 miles to Los Angeles where they unloaded the animals going to west coast cities. The flight to Honolulu was 2560 miles and Patti was almost home – just another 12 miles to Mililani. She was in good spirits and very happy to get out of that travel crate where she was greeted by Monty and her new family.



My wife Patsy and friend Joy Jay (the owner of Monty's mother) went to the Honolulu International Airport Animal Quarantine Facility to pick up Patti



Patti girl's first view of the Hawaiian Islands



Patti arrives home in Mililani and meets Monty for the first time.



After checking her gender, Monty decides he really likes Patti girl.

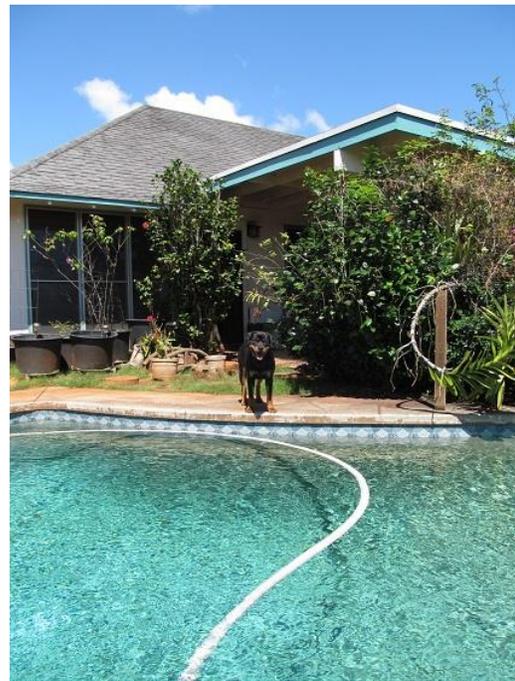


Patsy gives Patti her first Lei



Joy with Patti

Patti arrived home on July 17, 2013 and was almost one-year old. It took this long to sort through all of “Red Tape” required to get Patti from Romania to Hawaii. To prevent rabies from entering the state, Hawaii law requires that dogs complete a 120-day rabies quarantine. However, this rule can be waived if you can get certified documents from a qualified Veterinarian at the originating location verifying that the dog has been rabies free for at least 120 days. We decided to do this so Patti would not have to spent 120 days in the pens at the main Animal Quarantine Station in Halawa Valley. We had several problems communicating our wishes with the breeder in Romania who spoke very little English and we didn’t speak a word of Romanian. Then we had problems wiring money from our bank to the breeder’s bank in Romania. There seems to be a lot of crooks in the Romania banking system who kept trying to steal our money. Then it took about a month to schedule transportation from Germany to Hawaii.



Patti was a happy dog and enjoyed her new home. She loved being outside running around chasing lizards (Hawaiian Geckos) and exploring in the bushes and under the trees. She took over Monty’s igloo dog house in our patio and used it for hiding out, stashing her bones and an occasional bird she killed.



As I mentioned earlier, our male Rottweiler Monty really liked Patti so they were playing together constantly. Rottweilers don't exactly play like other dogs. They bite each other (softly), jump on top of each other, and chase each other all over the yard. If you didn't know better, you would think they were fighting but it's just their way of having fun. I only had to referee occasionally when they got too carried away and bit hard. Once in a while Patti tried to bite Monty's private parts which is not very nice and made him a little irritated. They have a couple of dozen toys out in the patio (and about a 100 in the house) to play with but they find things in the yard like a stick to play tug-a-war with.

Whenever anybody walks by our house, both Monty and Patti run to the gate to bark at them. This happens 3 or 4 times a night when a neighbor will be walking their dog or people are just out walking. Monty can bark louder than any dog on the block – 20 out of the 35 houses on the loop have at least one dog. Patti girl is probably the second loudest. One good thing is we don't have many door-to-door salesman or solicitors coming to our house.



Monty



Patti



Two Happy Dogs



Sharing a Toy



A Serious Moment



Patti getting a little sun



Patti Checking Out Her Christmas Presents

Yes, our dogs are spoiled! They have toys outside and in every room in the house except the bathrooms. Every time we go to the Pet Store they each get a toy. At Christmas time, they have several presents under the tree. Patti takes better care of her toys than Monty who can rip up a toy in seconds. So, when she gets a “special” toy, she takes it on my bed where Monty can’t get to it.



Patti’s Special Toys



Patti on my Bed



Monty and Patti in my Truck

Two of Patti’s most favorite things to do are going for a ride in the truck and going for a walk. I would take the dogs for ride in the truck every Saturday and Sunday. We would go all over the island of Oahu. Patti sat nicely and enjoyed the scenery. Sometimes we would go looking for chickens and cats – they are not hard to find. Patti loved to stick her head out the window and bark at them. She wished she could get out and go chase them. Before going home, we always stopped at the Mililani Burger King for their weekend treat – French Toast. Patti really liked the ladies that worked there and showed it by barking at them every time we drove away from the takeout window.



Patti Girl out walking with her original (old) leash

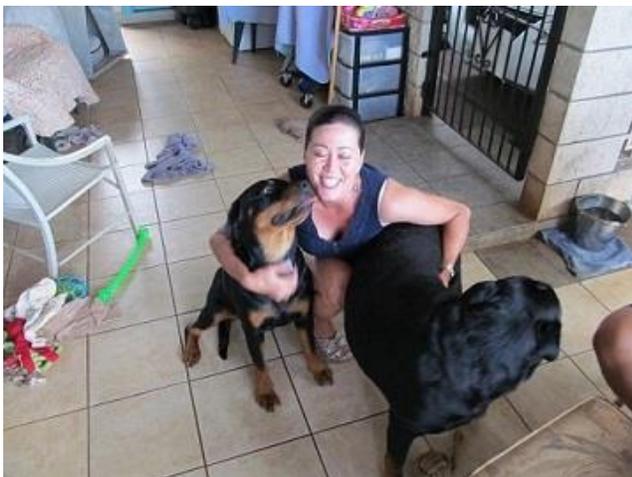
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday are walk days for the dogs. I take them separately because they are too big and strong - It would be impossible to take them both at the same time. Monty gets along with the other dogs and people a lot better than Patti so I take him around the main block where most people go. I would take Patti walking in the golf course deluxe housing area where not too many people go.

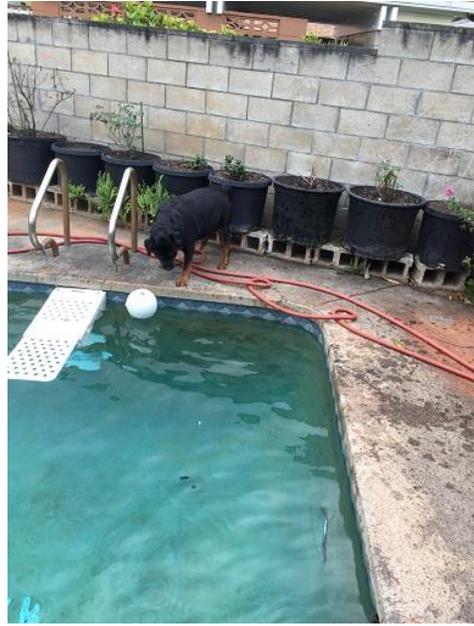


Patti Girl out walking with her new heavy-duty leash

Patti was more wild than Monty and wanted to chase cats and beef with other dogs. I found out one day that Patti was the toughest dog in the neighborhood. We were going up our road and two Pit Bulls got out of their yard and come running over to attack Patti. She grabbed one by the back of the neck and tossed him out in the road like a rag doll. She was going after the other one when the owner come out to save his dogs.

Patti might have been a little wild but she loved family and friends who come to the house. She showed her affection by licking you. In the pictures below, Patti is licking our daughter Tracy while Monty was doing his best to knock her down.





Patti loved to run around the pool barking and trying to get the balls while the grandkids were playing in the pool. She got wet and had a great time.



Patti was a wonderful dog and we (including Monty) loved her. We had four great years with Patti Girl and it is a shame she had to die so young. I'm a firm believer that a dog's spirit goes to heaven and I hope to see all of our deceased pets some day.

Some Quotes

“I wish dogs didn't have to get cancer. It seems like they should be able to live out their shorter dog years and then go quietly. People can be tested and learn from such diseases but dogs?” – Linda Lugo

“Nobody can fully understand the meaning of love unless he's owned a dog. A dog can show you more honest affection with a flick of his tail than a man can gather through a lifetime of handshakes.” – Gene Hill

“Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.” – Mark Twain

“Sometimes losing a pet is more painful than losing a human because in the case of the pet, you were not pretending to love it.” – Amy Sedaris

“I guess you don't really own a dog, you rent them, and you have to be thankful that you had a long lease.” – Joe Garagiola

“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.” – Will Rogers

I'm going to end this tribute to Patti Girl with some statistics and information about Lymphoma cancer that killed her.

- ✓ Rottweilers are large dogs with a life expectancy of about 10 years.**
- ✓ An estimated 6 million dogs will be diagnosed with cancer this year.**
- ✓ Cancer in dogs will likely affect 50 percent of our canine friends.**
- ✓ Cancer is the leading cause of death in dogs – 47% die of cancer.**
- ✓ Lymphoma is one of the most common types of cancer in dogs.**
- ✓ 20% of all malignant tumors in dogs are lymphomas.**
- ✓ There is no cure for Lymphoma Cancer!**

Lymphoma is a type of cancer that originates in the lymphocyte cells of the immune system. A type of white blood cell, lymphocytes play an important and integral role in the body's defenses.

Canine Lymphoma will grow quickly and can kill a dog within 1 to 3 months after initial detection.

Treatment options. Chemotherapy treatments can extend the dog's life a few months but are very expensive (up to \$8,000). Prednisone has anti-cancer effects and can help dogs with lymphoma feel better for a short period of time. We elected to treat Patti with Prednisone.

Canine Lymphoma Cancer Progression

Early symptoms of the disease:

Swollen Lymph Nodes

Weight Loss

Loss of Appetite

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Excessive Panting

Increased Thirst

Increased Urination

Symptoms when the end is near:

Getting Weak

Reclusive Behavior

Difficulty breathing

Seizures

Sudden Collapse

Internal Bleeding

Crying/Whining from Pain

** Symptoms that Patti showed are highlighted in Yellow

Here is what actually happened with Patti:

Dates:

06/23/2017 – Yearly checkup reveals enlarged lymph nodes.

06/27/2017 – Biopsy surgery.

07/06/2017 – Biopsy results show Patti has Lymphoma cancer.

07/08/2017 – Biopsy stitches out – Patti starts taking Prednisone.

08/02/2017 – First signs of serious cancer symptoms – she was getting weak and could not jump onto the bed or into the truck.

08/05/2017 and 08/06/2017 – Internal bleeding from nose and mouth.

08/07/2017 – Called Vet to come to the house – we put Patti to sleep.

Canine Lymphoma Cancer kills dogs quickly. Patti only lasted 45 days after our Vet found the enlarged lymph nodes. She was cremated and her ashes will be buried in our yard with our other dogs.

God bless Patti Girl