

THE TAIL OF WILLIE AND PRINCESS



1993, was our first knowledge of the "Mini Huskies". On August 2, we called Linda Spurlin and even though she did not have any pups available, she graciously invited us to visit her kennels in Wasilla. There we met Linda and the Alaskan Klee Kai. When Earl asked about shipping costs to Texas, Linda suggested we might want to contact Eileen Gregory in Colorado. A couple of days later we called Eileen and she mailed papers to Alaska so we could get on her waiting list.

We arrived at Klee Kai Kennelette on 9-2-93. It was raining so we visited with Greg and Eileen and numerous beautiful AKK but none were available. When the rain stopped, we went to the kennels and brought Willie to the house. He was a 2 ½ yr old g/w toy that Eileen had removed from her breeding program. When I picked him up, he snuggled my neck and I was HOOKED. Earl really wanted to wait for a puppy, but I knew Willie and I had already bonded. Besides, the "older children" need love, too. After four hours with Greg and Eileen and their "family", we left for Texas with Earl driving and Willie in my arms.

A group of railroad buddies meet at McDonald's every Tue & Fri. We got home on Monday after being gone 68 days. So, the next morning Earl bragged to his friends that we adopted a 2 1/2 year old boy with brown eyes—just like his. He really had them believing until he confessed the boy had 4 legs and a tail. Anyway, he was our baby boy. For a little background: Earl & I married 2-14-93. I was 56 and this was my first marriage. He was a retired Locomotive Engineer and widower with no children. I had known Earl and Christine 40 years, as my dad also was an engineer.

Earl made a little sled with a skateboard base and Willie and I started participating in parades. When with the Shriners, a large teddy bear wearing a Fez rides in the sled. Willie and I enrolled in obedience training and received his Canine Good Citizen Certificate.

March 1994, we returned to Colorado and Willie was happy to see Grandma and Grandpa Gregory and his furry friends. By the end of 94, I thought Willie needed a playmate. Earl wanted a blue-eyed g/w female so we placed our order and he started telling Willie how different things would

be when the little princess arrived. Our new baby was born 1-27-95. Willie and I met Greg and Eileen in Colorado Springs and received 8-wk old Princess. She howled and cried for miles because she did not like to be alone in the carrier. She has been Willie's baby to love, protect, and romp with. They are inseparable and a pleasure to be with.

Space will not allow for a report of all the things we do together, so I will try to be brief. The crowds got a double treat when Princess joined our parades. They are "hams" and enjoy the attention and have been shown on local TV. For night parades their harnesses and sled are lighted. We didn't do Christmas parades 2002 as mine and Willie's legs don't work as well as when we were younger.

They enjoy the deer lease and stay with me in the blind. Princess helps me clean the deer. I take them everywhere I can and they ride in shopping carts at PetsMart, Lowe's and Home Depot. People may not know me, but certainly remember my kids. We participate in fund raising events and walks such as America Heart Association and Shriners Hospitals for Children. When visiting places with crowds, like Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO., they feel less intimidated being in their stroller, it's easier for us to move around, and they tolerate being petted. As we entered Dollywood, the gate attendant said they would be the attraction of the day—and she was right. They love to travel and explore new places. Earl was part of a Volunteer Christian Builders team and Willie thinks he's a church inspector. We've worked in MO, MN, CO and several in TX.

We lost our beloved Earl 3-4-99 but have continued to travel. One of our most memorable trips was June, 1999 when we picked up Greg and Eileen and 5 more adorable AKK and journeyed to Kalamazoo, MI for the UKC Premier Show. Oh, what an experience for all of us! When we travel alone in the motorhome, Willie is co-pilot and Princess rides on the dash as navigator.

I drive a SUV and keep the back seats down so my kids have plenty of room for food, water & toys. They expect their milk bone from the drive-in bank teller. Yes, they are very spoiled and over weight.

No major medical problems except those associated with age. The Vet says Willie is developing cataracts. After recent blood work, he said my dogs were healthier than he was. They do cough a lot after drinking, so I have elevated their water bowls. They

also have tables the food bowls sit in. The living room is "their room" where they eat, sleep and look out the large picture window and let me know when the postman or anyone else arrives. After greeting anyone at the door, Willie goes back to his room, but Princess stays close by my side.

We missed the AKKAOA Picnic last July as we were on a mission trip in Lake Placid, NY. We plan to be in CO this year and hope to meet many of you there. Princess enjoys the agility equipment. Give all of your furry friends a big hug.

**KLUANE'S WILLIWAW * 1-7-91 ~ 4-9-03
(Willie is in Front)**



My precious Willie went to Doggie Heaven April 9, 2003 while lying in my arms. Willie lived 12 years 3 months and 2 days and died from congestive heart failure. Willie was a very loving, faithful companion, an independent little guy and he is greatly missed. For him I will use the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

*Goodbye for now Mr. Willie,
Miss Princess and I will see
you again someday.*



Mary Jones ~ Member Since
April 1996

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