

BRADIE LYNN - In Memoriam

May 31, 2004 - August 5, 2016



All dog lovers know what it is like to love a dog. You know how they change your life in such a way that you are never the same person as you were before you loved them. But those of us dog lovers who have had many, many dogs in our lives know that some of them are different than the rest.

Soul mates are those special beings, who intuitively know what you feel and when they are needed, without you saying a word or even bring around. They are gifts from the Universe - timeless friends - who reconnect with us and love us into remembering our true nature and in doing so connect us back to the Source of our being.

- Risha Joshi

And BRADIE LYNN was mine.

BRADIE LYNN was born in the 2nd litter of puppies I ever whelped, the summer before my senior year of high school. We decided to keep her and her brother CHAENEY (who became Terry's 2nd Assistance Dog), and they made the 6th and 7th dogs in our pack - yes, at one time.

Although RILEY was the first dog I ever had, BRADIE LYNN was the first dog who was ever truly mine. After my freshman year of college in the dorm, I moved straight out into a pet friendly apartment so she could come live with me, and we were inseparable ever since. She was with me from the time I was 17 until I was 29. She left home with me for the first time. She was there for every triumph and every failure of leaving home and trying really hard to be an adult...and also lots of late nights and late mornings in Morgantown. She was with me for 12 years, 2 educational degrees, 8 moves, and 5 boyfriends (yes, I counted). She was my Assistance Dog before I ever knew what Assistance Dogs really were. She was with me when I left home for the 2nd time and moved to Wilmington on a wing and a prayer, knowing no one, having no paying job, and praying really hard that paws4people was going to finally become "something." And she sat on the porch with me the night I closed on my 1st home, when all 10 of our

employees and even more friends came over to celebrate with us, being able to finally know that paws4people had very much become "something" and we were, in fact, going to make it after all.

I had the privilege to hold her when she took her first breath in this world, and her last. Blessings like that don't come around often. And all the words that I have couldn't begin to convey all that she was. And I will miss her every day.

