

# Podley Eugene Gerth

3/14/04 - 12/19/09



I wish someone had given little Jesus a dog  
as loyal and loving as mine  
to sleep by His manger and gaze in His eyes  
and adore Him for being divine.

As Our Lord grew to manhood, His own faithful dog  
would have followed Him all through the day  
while he preached to the crowds and made the sick well  
and knelt in the Garden to pray.

It is sad to remember that Christ went away  
to face death alone and apart,  
with no tender dog following close behind  
to comfort its Master's heart.

And when Jesus rose on that Easter morn,  
how happy He would have been  
as His dog kissed His hand and barked his delight  
for the One who died for all men!

Well, the Lord has a dog now;  
I just sent Him mine,  
the sweet pal so dear to me.  
And I smile through my tears on this first day alone,  
knowing *they're* in eternity

December 19, 2009 started out with anticipation of a beautiful snowing day with 12 + inches in the forecast. A perfect day to spend at home with those you love most. That is what Bill and I planned to do. Just enjoy! After all pets were fed and our chores were done, we decided it would be a perfect time to take all three kids, Cinda, Sammy and Podley, for a romp in our woods. They are rarely allowed in the woods due to fleas and ticks. But with the ground totally covered with snow, we were ready to enjoy the fun.

As usual Sammy and Podley took off in the lead, leaving Cinda, Dad and me in the spray of their take-off. Following deer tracks and down the hill a bit further than we'd liked, we called them back. They eventually decided to come back up - Sammy in the lead this time.

Podley had to rest but he ventured up to meet us. I saw he needed some help and tried to carry him a bit, but he was heavy. I sat him down and started to clean the snowballs out of his pads and he then just collapsed. We truly thought he died. But he came back to us, but unable to walk. We rushed him to the vet, calling them several times on the way. How can we help him?

Time was so important. And the roads were treacherous! We got him there but after tests, x-rays and blood work, we needed to get him to a clinic who could relieve the blood built up in the sac around Podley's heart.

We didn't have a lot of time. I laid in the back seat with him for the ride over. Dad fought the freezing ice on the windshield. That one hour-plus trip seemed like an eternity that day, but now, I treasure every second I had with him, curled up beside him, telling how much we still needed him and not to leave.

Once we arrived, the surgeon was able to relieve the blood from the sac around Pod's heart and he immediately felt a bit better. We got a tail wag or two. They put him in a run to stabilize and we were told to head home, that they'd monitor him and we could come get him and take him to University of Penn in the morning.

We almost made it home when we got the call, his blood would not clot and he had filled up again. We turned around to do the only thing we could do. He hung on, the little trooper. With his Mom curled up holding him in his kennel and Dad next to him, we said our last good-bye and gave our boy back to Jesus.

We are thankful for his five and a half year life and our four years with him. In his short life, he has touched so very many lives. And for that we are thankful.





A memorial page has been set up on *Facebook* for

## **Podley Eugene Gerth**

Please feel free to post any memories you may have of our precious boy there or send directly to me.

Thank you for your outpouring of support through this most difficult time. It wasn't until now that I realize the full extent of the lives he has touched.

It is my only comfort knowing so many others were blessed by his short, but so precious life.

It was truly an honor and privilege to be his Mom and caregiver.

*Karen Gerth*