

OBITUARY
Podley Eugene Gerth
By Maggie Hackman



On December 19, 2009, Podley, a wonderful therapy dog who occasionally visited Acadia died suddenly. Podley, was not a regular visitor to Acadia, as coming here didn't fit into his handler, Karen Gerth's, busy schedule. But, we asked for him whenever we needed back-up, as Podley was truly a special dog. He was active, kind and gentle. Also, he lived his life without his right front leg, having lost it just after birth because his umbilical cord was wrapped tightly around it in the womb. It didn't get adequate oxygen and fell off soon after birth. As a result, Podley never knew the life of a 4-legged dog and from watching Pod, it appeared that four legs aren't necessary for a full, active dog life. Karen told us stories of Podley racing with his brother, Sammy, and sister, Cinda, all over the yard—cornering on a dime, in a way they couldn't with their inconvenient four legs. He

swam and generally led an active life. He was a therapy dog, visiting people of all kinds, but especially connecting with people with disabilities, since he could show folks that having a little thing wrong like a missing limb didn't mean you have to miss out on living life to the fullest.

But sadly, on December 19, 2009, Podley died suddenly. He had an undetected heart problem and on this day it took him from us. He was 5-years-old. We will miss him terribly and remember him as the sweet dog who showed others how to live life to the fullest. Thank you Karen and Podley for this gift!



Jonathan Whitlock
Snowman in Mexico, 1.12.10
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