

Dear James & Cindy,

I wanted to let you know how much joy Calvin gave me. He was my best bud and constant companion. He always wanted to be on the go preferably with a toy. Calvin loved meeting new people and boisterously greeted old friends.

It did not matter where I took Calvin I would always receive compliments from how beautiful he was to what a great security system you have for your car. One gentleman pulled up alongside me, stared at Calvin and said "that is the most beautiful German Shepherd I have ever seen." Many, even the local k9 officers, were impressed with Calvin's size, looks, and good-natured temperament.

I soon found out Calvin had a knack for knowing when he got a new toy. I went on a "shopping expedition" and amongst various bags of clothes, food, and knick-knacks I had bought him a new ball. I don't know how but as I was walking through the door he stuck his nose in a bag and pulled out his ball wagging his tail in delight. After that it became a game for him to find his new ball amongst any shopping bags, and he would take his new toy to each family member to show them what he got.

There were many amazing experiences with Calvin. The most amazing development was when my niece got pregnant. She was 3 months along when she told us and shortly after that we all noticed that whenever Calvin was around her he would nudge her abdomen. His actions continued through her pregnancy. After Charlie was born, I and Calvin spent the night at their home. As we walked through the door Calvin ignored the rest of the family and made a beeline straight to the basinet where Charlie was, and Calvin never nudged Sabrina in that manner again. Any time that Charlie cried, Calvin was always there to see what was going on. Calvin and Charlie were great buddies.

Calvin died of hemangiosarcoma in the liver and it was confirmed after his passing. The symptoms are few or none until it is severe. It took everyone by surprise because I had Calvin's teeth cleaned July 14<sup>th</sup> and precautionary blood work came back normal. I took Calvin in on September 24<sup>th</sup> because Calvin's abdomen had gotten larger and solid within a week or two. They took X-rays which were inconclusive and blood work only showed abnormal blood clotting agents. The ultrasound technician confirmed the next day that the liver had indeed enlarged, but he did not believe it was hemangiosarcoma because usually the animal succumbs to it before it enlarges. The doctor consulted with other associates, and he spoke to me about options and quality of life. I was able to decide not to move forward with medical procedures. Calvin's personality did not change. He was happy and able to play while we prepared ourselves for the next steps. When it was time, I had Calvin put to sleep on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I had several friends that came over to say goodbye to Calvin. The UPS driver stopped by three times just to check up on him. Calvin always enjoyed going to the vet office. Whenever the vet techs worked on Calvin or gave him a shot, he would wag his tail and lick their faces. The vet techs always told me there were only two German Shepherds that they would allow near their faces. They told me it was Justus (Emmitt) and Calvin – I looked at them and said “oh you mean Sherrye’s dog?” They were stunned and said “Yes, do you know her?” “Yes Calvin and Justus are from the same breeder. I was with Sherrye when she got Justus.” They were greatly impressed. The two main doctors always told me that Justus and Calvin are the standard that we set all other German Shepherds to and we tell others so. The vet techs came in and said goodbye to Calvin as well.

This was a devastating loss but I am very thankful to have had Calvin in my life.

I would like to place a deposit on a male puppy. After speaking to Cindy, color is not an issue. I would love to have another happy ball loving companion.

Thank you,

  
Heather Silva

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