

"ALL stray dogs to lucky dogs ... NOW!"

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Straydog Inc., The Arnold Family's Happy Home for Strays, a No-Kill Dog Shelter

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Bill Arnold's Daily Straydog Log

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30 2005

Gretchen has gone home

Gretchen had to be helped out to the park for potty breaks a couple of times last night, and our overnight man, Bobby Waters, said she needed a lot of help with the towel under her belly to lift her after she squatted and to steady her walking to and from the park. Bobby said Gretchen seemed to be very, very weak last night and she wouldn't eat anything.

When I entered our hospital trailer this morning, Gretchen thumped her tail lightly a couple of times on her big fluffy bed, and I went into her kennel and sat down on the floor next to her. I petted her and talked to her for a while, and she licked my hand.

No one said anything at our "meeting" to discuss Gretchen this morning. We just all cried together.

Erin drove the van, and Juana sat next to Gretchen on a blanket in the back of the van on their trip to Tyler to see Dr. Reeves. (Gretchen did not have to ride in a crate on her last trip to the vet.)

At 4:31 p.m. Erin called me from the parking area at Dr. Reeves' clinic. Dr. Reeves had come out to the van so that Gretchen wouldn't have to move. The doctor sat on the floor in the back of the van examining Gretchen, and he talked about what a wonderful, sweet Shepherd she'd always been. He anesthetized Gretchen, waited and then gave her her last injection.

As I type, Gretchen has just crossed Rainbow Bridge. Right now I'm sure she's meeting Pat, who I'm also sure was there waiting for old Gretchie.

Dr. Reeves said we all did a good job giving Gretchen another year of good life.

Thanks so much to Pam and Gary Bollinger for taking Gretchen into their home for a while last summer, where Gretchie just couldn't get along with former Straydog doggie, Dallas, whom the Bollingers had adopted from Straydog quite a while before along with another former Straydog doggie named Maggie.

We'll all cry for a while now and then get back to caring for the rest of the dogs.