

In 1984 or so, I was teaching beginning obedience classes for the Cedar Rapids Kennel Association. One of my students was this very nice, very quiet lady with a cute little Pomeranian named Minute. The lady was Kay Lowe. I watched Kay work with her little dog for several weeks when one night she came up to me after class and asked if she could ask a question. She said that on occasion Minute was prone to biting her if she did not want to do what Kay wanted and Kay wanted to know if that was OK. I looked at her with a bit of confusion (could not for the life of me understand why a person would not instantly find that wrong <grin>) and politely responded, "No, that is not okay." I explained very carefully biting for any reason is not good and that she needs to stop it right now. I explained very carefully some things that Kay could do to curtail this bad habit, knowing how devoted Kay seemed to her little dog and that she definitely appeared to be a "gentle soul".

Well, Kay went on to earn a Dog World Award (all three scores 195 or better) AKC CD with Minute. I believe her CDX and maybe UD were a Dog World Award as well. She subsequently earned Dog World Award AKC obedience titles on many dogs after Minute as well.

Kay had a talent with dogs in getting them to work with her. I was always humbled any time people would compliment Kay on her abilities and she would acknowledge that I was one of the first to get her started on this path and that one of the most important lessons she learned from me was no matter what your dog does and throughout your training with your dog, remember to smile.

Kay was a talented lady.

---Carolyn Schaldecker

Melinda, Tammy, Kay and I were traveling to a seminar in Peoria, Illinois. We shared a hotel room—Tammy and Melinda got one bed and Kay and I had the other. I think we each had one dog with us—I had Robin. We were all in bed with the lights out and Robin must have done something to get Kay's attention. She reached over to pet him and said, "It's OK, Robin". Kay had missed her mark. I replied, "That's NOT Robin!" as she patted ME on the rump. We all got a great laugh out of that one!

---Marsha Kingsley

When I was joining the 4RK9's Club, I came to the second meeting which was at the Lone Star Steakhouse and I sat next to Kay. She had this wonderful smile and made me feel very welcome, until I accidentally drank her root beer. She reached over to grab her drink and saw me slurping it up and we both had a good laugh. She said not to worry and took my drink! What a sweet woman and what a good sense of humor.

Kay kept e-mailing me and inviting me to join the K-9 Ambassadors. I didn't come to the first few outings and she just kept inviting me until I decided to come with my half-trained Keeshond, Max. We started participating and had a wonderful time going to libraries and schools, etc. Kay would always make a point to say how well Max and I did. She really encouraged new people to do their best.

Kay was not only a knowledgeable dog person, but she was a very welcoming smile for a new person in the club and in the dog world.

---Sandy Miller

When you took a class from Kay she would ask who worked their dogs at least five times that week and everyone else was supposed to bake cookies for the class the next week. Her reasoning was that it would take less time to practice than to bake cookies.

I remember watching Kay, Kenny and their dogs perform on the stage of TCR during FirstStar Eve—the family New Year’s Eve celebration years ago here in Cedar Rapids. Her dogs did so well and everything Kay asked she asked in a kind voice and when they did as requested Kay smiled a big smile and thanked them. It was the first time I had seen this kindness in animal training. I left quite impressed. Who knew that years later I would be training with her?

I remember stewarding in UKC obedience out at the armory—I was the gate steward. Kay came to me and said if the little white dog breaks (one of her Eskimos) not to grab it or I would be bitten. I was sure she was wrong. He was such a sweet dog and I was so naïve. Fortunately I did not have to find out because the dog did just exactly as it was supposed to.

---Laurie Lee

Many years ago Norm Aguirre came to the Isaac Walton Building in Iowa City and taught obedience classes for ICDOC. We were hanging around waiting for class to start and Kay was training one of her Poms. She was teaching him go outs. She stood at one end of the building holding the Pom, pointed to the other end of the building and told him to go out. She carried the dog to the other end, sat it down in the correct go out spot and told him he was good. She picked him up and walked back to the other end of the building, sat the dog next to her. She told him to go out...he ran to the other end of the building and did a perfectly straight go out! This did leave Norm speechless.

One day we were training, I think it was back at Ikes. She was working the dumbbell with her Samoyed, Lucky. Lucky decided the dumbbell was not his thing and instead of taking it he put his mouth around her arm. I remember Kay saying, “You take my arm out of your mouth, right now!” Of course he did.

---Sheryl McCormick

I knew Kay Lowe for a long time. She came over to my place in Council Bluffs for a lesson or two many years ago, and that’s how I got to know her. I always found her to be so kind, so soft-spoken, and so positive. As the years went by, I always admired Kay for her work with her rescues. My last memory of Kay was at the Iowa City shows in the summer of 2007. Kay was working on the UDX with her Border Collie [Lucky]. I remember that Kenny was there, and he was holding a stuffed dog in his lap. It broke my heart to see him, and then watch Kay interact with him. Kay was having issues with the Long Sit, and my friend and I were watching Kay’s dog on the long sit while chanting to each other “sit, Sit, SIT”, and her dog did get a UDX leg that day! I was so happy for Kay.

I don’t think Kay had any idea how much I admired and respected her. Of course now I wish I had voiced it in some way to her! But hopefully by writing this, I will just be adding to the many voices who will be affirming what a wonderful, gracious, and brave person she was. I will never forget her.

---Gerianne Darnell

There was a group of us who used to train at the Cedar Rapids Armory on Monday nights. Kay and Kenny were always there—hauling out those mats and then rolling them up at the end. What a lot of work but I don’t think Kay every

complained. Kay was training several dogs at the time. They all seemed to have an article bag. I was so impressed by how she could keep all of those articles straight and not get them mixed up! Kay was so encouraging to me. She made me feel like my dogs and I could conquer any problem that came along. Kay was always encouraging me with my first dog, AJ. That was very special to me because AJ was a very shy dog. I was training Sapphire for Utility Kay told me to tell her what she would be doing next in the ring. What a wonderful idea!

Kay had a rescue American Eskimo, Misty. When Misty was naughty Kay would tease that she was going to put Misty in someone's car to take home. Usually, it would be Bob Burgin's van. It was such a fun time training together and helping each! I loved to watch Kay train her dogs. She always talked to them and smiled at them telling them everything she wanted them to do.

When I started attending dog trials, Kay and Kenny were always there. They were such great supporters of dog events. It was always "comforting" to know Kay and Kenny would be there—supportive, friendly, and encouraging.

Kay was always volunteering to help with fun matches and trials. I was always getting e-mails from her, "Liz, what can I do?" It is hard to get ready for this trial because I don't have Kay offering to help.

I will always remember her last advice to me. The problem was Scamp's long sit exercise—he would lie down. After the 4RK9's trial in October, I was discussing my problem with Kay. I will never forget her response. In her quiet but very determined voice and a smile on her face she said, "Well, the first thing is, you don't give up." Thank you, Kay.

---Liz Drexler

I didn't know Kay very well, but she made a strong impression anyway.

Our first connection was due to the fact that she had a special place in her heart for Samoyeds and I was showing one. She was so encouraging and always told me to keep on trying. I really wanted to get a qualifying score in obedience so I could see her face when I collected the award she often offered for obedience Samoyeds. I finally qualified this past weekend and I swear I saw her smiling.

I took a class from her fairly recently. She told me that I was NOT to be nervous in the ring any more. She held out her hand and asked me to put the nerves in there. She then threw them away. It was a silly thing and not easy to just quit being nervous, but it made me smile. Now when I am really nervous before I go in the ring, I think of that and smile. It is hard for me to be REALLY nervous while I'm smiling. She gave me lots of really great pointers in the class. I don't know very much about her other than these few little things. She loved reading the Susan Conant dog mysteries. I won a few copies of her books in a raffle basket and Kay told me she hadn't read those yet. I read them and passed them along to her. She was so happy with that.

Mostly—I can't get her eyes out of my mind. She had the most beautiful, blue eyes. They were such a vivid color and I never saw her angry or disapproving. She always seemed kind and caring. I miss her even though I didn't really know her.

---Kathy Stepp

Kay and I used to train together over my lunch hour. It was especially helpful to have someone to call out the heeling pattern as we got close to a trial to better simulate the real event. She and I had an ongoing rule during these training sessions: if you didn't wait for the "judge's" command, you owed her a dollar. We were so used to training alone at

other times that we were both bad about lining up our dogs and off we'd go without waiting for the other to say, "Forward!" I can't even tell you how many dollars I lost because I didn't wait until Kay was ready for me to go.

At her funeral I made the comment that, as I saw it, Kay now owed me a dollar because when she passed away, I wasn't ready for her to go! A couple of weeks later I got an envelope in the mail with no return address. Inside was a dollar and an unsigned note that said: "Kay said to send this to you because she doesn't want you to get into a hurry and be ready!"

I never would have made it past my first trial in Novice A if I wasn't for Kay. I miss her very, very much. I'm feeling her loss even more now as I am getting ready for this trial. That note I got in the mail was a great reminder of Kay and her wonderful loving spirit that lives on in all of you great people. I am lucky to have you as friends.

Thank you, Kay!

---Peggy Shaver

Kay was a source of inspiration for us. She rejoiced with us for every success we had. She had solutions for any problems we had with training our dogs. I was her assistant for many obedience classes that she taught. I learned something during every session. Kay was always generous with sharing her knowledge and was willing to mentor anyone who would listen. She truly loved dogs and gave a home to several dogs that were "unadoptable". She wished for us to provide a home for her Border Collie, Lucky. He is indeed a treasure. We are the ones who are "lucky". Kay will be missed by all who knew her.

---Jim and Helen Venneman

The thing I will always think is so remarkable is that I don't think I ever saw Kay that she didn't flash that wonderfully big smile and have some pleasantries to offer. Even when she looked as though she didn't have energy enough to stand still, she always had that easy smile and didn't hesitate to share it! That's such a wonderful trait. It's definitely one I wish I had—to be able to see positives in everything and everybody—her good dog/bad dog treats say it all!

---Sue Medberry

I don't think I ever would have had the confidence to enter a trial AT ALL, if it hadn't been for Kay's gentle encouragement. She always took the time to talk to me about any concerns or problems I was having with learning to be a good trainer for Lola. I think she was able to remember what it felt like to be a true novice, even though she had accomplished so much as a trainer, herself. It's so hard as a beginning trainer to watch everyone that is so skillful with training their dogs and then to put yourself out there in front of them and hope you don't totally embarrass yourself. She helped me realize that if something went very wrong in the ring, that's an opportunity to focus on what went wrong and then how to fix it. She also taught me that every dog learns differently and there are a ton of ways to teach the same behavior—an invaluable lesson!

When Lola got her last leg in AKC Novice, I couldn't wait to celebrate with Kay and was so glad she was at that show. She knew how much that meant to me and later took the time to give me a card and Lola a little toy. She'll always have a special place in my heart.

---Paula Warner

I wanted a great first lesson for Trump back in the 90's. I called Kay and we met at the old building upstairs in Cedar Rapids old downtown building. She was so patient and positive. We ended up training together for my old dogs Trump and Spencer and her sweetheart, Nugget.

---Susan Thorndike

You always saw Kay coming in at a trial or there before you. Such a big smile and so glad to see and welcome you! She helped with the little things. I remember her last visit to our UKC trial. Lucky had won High Combined and she was so pleased. She truly was a wonder to know and how she helped all she could to anyone. We were blessed to know a true wonder.

---Rusty Nelson

Kay had been training a variety of breeds of dogs for years before I met her. She probably had the biggest impact for me as an obedience trainer. She's the first person I took a class with that used food in training! That was back in 1993, after our one year old Bichon, Molly, finished her CD. WOW! What a change!

Kay was highly sought after as an obedience instructor. She was truly kind to both human and canine students. I don't think I ever saw her lose her temper.

One of my fondest memories to Kay was when the four of us, Kay, Melinda, Marsha and I, piled into a SUV in order to attend a Judy Howard Obedience Seminar in MN. Marsha had Robin, her Whippet. I'm not sure if any other dogs attended. That night at the hotel, we shared a room! Yes, all four of us! We paired up in beds, Melinda and I, Kay and Marsha. All of a sudden we hear some patting noise, along with Kay saying, "It's alright Robin." Then you hear Marsha's voice, "That's NOT Robin!" We all burst out laughing! It was truly hysterical.

Kay had some great one liners. Another night in the hotel resulted in some 'banging' in the room next door. Luckily, I slept through it. Not Kay! That morning when someone commented on it, Kay spoke up and said, "I sure hope he got a wart on it!" What a card!

Kay showed mostly in obedience, but she did try her hand at some UKC agility as well. She showed Golden Retrievers, Eskimos, Shelties, a Lab, Poms, an Aussie, as well as Border Collies. All of which at some time had been called "Fluffy". It was her 'catch all' name.

Kay really touched so many people and so many dogs! Kay, you will be missed!

---Tammy Etscheidt

What I remember most about Kay was her unfailing good humor. She always had a smile on her face, even at the end of a long trial that maybe hadn't gone as well as she had hoped. She was also one of the most determined people I've ever met. She never gave up on a person or a dog and would continue working when everyone else had given up. Of course, she would persevere. I still remember when she finished Shadow's UD. It had taken years but Kay never quit. Finally, I loved to listen to her talk to her dogs in the ring. Always upbeat and encouraging, she would begin every exercise with, "Do you want to play a game of..." whatever they were about to perform. Even when her dogs had a bad day in the ring, she would smile at them, love them and then offer to put them in someone else's van. The dog community has lost someone irreplaceable in Kay Lowe.

---Mary Drexler

I had met Kay Lowe so many years ago; I don't really want to admit to it. I admired and was in awe of how she could quietly take some of the most traumatized rescues not only into her home, but into competitions. At that time, I would only get to see her at area shows, but we became friends. When agility started in this area, Kay was one of the first to be training it. She couldn't run the course times that USDAA or even later AKC wanted to qualify. But in UKC (NADAC originally) she could shine. Trials were few and far between, and getting judges was a growing problem. Kay is one of the biggest reasons I became a UKC agility judge. She was a shining example of the UKC spirit. It is a place where everyone can come together, make friends and compete no matter what breed of dog (including mixed breeds) and since the emphasis is not on speed, people that were not necessarily fast could have championships on their dogs.

Who would have thought all those years ago, that I would eventually end up moving to the same area as Kay? When I moved here, the dog people, especially Kay, made me feel at home. We started the K9 Ambassadors program together, and she was always at my side during those presentations. I went to Therapy visits with her, and she was always so cheerful. No matter how she was feeling. You know, she would call me worried about my health and never once complaining herself.

My fondest memory is how she would come into my ring when I was judging, and take my red pen away from me. She always felt that if I didn't have a pen, I couldn't write down any points off!! Of course, I would smile and go to my bag and get another pen out and off we would go. But you also had to watch your glasses, too...if she could she'd take those! But, you know, it still makes me smile to think about it. With her family's permission, I took one of my judge's pens, taped it to a note: "My dearest friend, Kay, Here's that perfect 200 you always wanted. Wit love always, Kathy" and I sent it on her final journey with her.

Kay, we love you. Thank you for being the person you were and helping us all become better trainers.

---Kathy Davidson

Kay immediately loved all dogs. And if a person loved her own dogs, then Kay loved that person, too! I am grateful to Kay for many, many things.

All of my dogs were adopted from the Iowa City Animal Shelter—three bigger mixed breeds and a probably Jack Russell terrier. Our chow mix, Desi, who has some fear-aggression issues, probably holds the record for the largest number of times taking home obedience at 4RK9s by any one dog. (I think it was 7 times.) Kay never lost patience with us and encouraged me to keep bringing Desi to classes so she could get more comfortable around other dogs. Seeing how much Desi enjoyed a beginning freestyle class, Kay even invited us to join her freestyle group. I wish we could have done that.

Like so many other dog people in Iowa, I have Kay to thank as one of the major figures who got me started in competitive obedience and agility, and kept me going when I got discouraged. I know she was one of the driving forces for UKC obedience and agility in eastern Iowa. If the 4RK9s UKC obedience and agility trials had not existed, Lucy and I would never have gotten started at all. I will never forget Lucy's and my first trial. We did both obedience and agility—two round of each on Saturday and one of each on Sunday. Kay came by to check in with us and give Lucy a toy every single time we came out of the ring. Kay never missed a UKC trial anywhere in the area despite caring for Kenny and dealing with her own declining health. And she always celebrated everyone's successes and gave support and encouragement when we weren't doing so well.

Kay also was Orbit's first teacher. Kay couldn't stand to turn anyone away from a 4RK9s class, so when we adopted Orbit, Kay squeezed her into her upcoming CGC class. It was a wonderful way for Orbit and me to start building a bond

and working together. Orbit took a tremendous liking to Kenny, and from then on, whenever we would see him at 4RK9s, Orbit would make a beeline over to him.

Thank you, Kay, for the many classes I took from you, for your friendship and support, and for your example, from which I have learned so much not only about dog training but also about caring and courage.

---Kate Cowles, Kiri ,Lucy, Desi, and Orbit and remembering Mickey and Donald, always in our hearts

Kay's humor and up beat disposition is what I remember best.

My husband and I together took Guinness to a puppy class at the building that Kay was teaching. My husband likes dogs but is not a "dog lover". We were practicing "look at me" and dog attention when Kay suggested that Pat put pieces of hot dogs in his mouth so he could dispense them to Guinness when he looked at him. My husband told Kay, "I'm not putting any food in my mouth that the dog is going to eat!"

During the whole 7 weeks she constantly teased him in a good natured way.

I also remember Kay not wanting to turn down any dog for a class. Her classes were normally overly full because if they didn't take a class here, "where would they go?" She always wanted the dogs to get the best training. Training where the dogs are praised and rewarded—no harsh corrections.

She even took some dogs with issues and worked with them separately to try and get them integrated back into a regular class.

--Lou Ann O'Malley

My first personal contact with Kay was going to her novice class at Hawkeye Downs years ago. There was no limit to the number in the class and we all brought something like a five gallon plastic bucket. We had the "stuff" we needed in our buckets and then they were used as posts for the figure eights which we did together. She always told us how all the dogs were doing great. Everything was positive and Kenny was there to help as she requested.

I was always worried about her when she was coming to Iowa City. She and Kenny had little sense of direction and were always getting lost. Even with the very best of directions and written down, they could get VERY lost. They would have been so lost they could not even tell you where they had been.

So many times I have seen Kay with someone that she probably didn't know, but whose dog had not performed as well as people had hoped. When I would do a CGC test and someone would not have passed, with in minutes, there would be Kay talking with them about what a wonderful dog they had and it just needed a bit more work.

Kay always volunteered to help and would volunteer months in advance. In earlier time, she would volunteer Kenny, too. I miss them both.

---Carol Clemens

When my family lost Koda, our Rottweiler a little while ago I just couldn't stop thinking about him. It was a great comfort for me to know Kay was there to hold him in her arms. Kay liked him so very much.

--Pam Lorenzen

Kay and I began training dogs at about the same time. We also became dog people about the same time.

We had been training for about a year and decided that we wanted to go to the Bob Self camp in Galesburg, IL.

We made arrangements to go and were looking forward to the week training our dogs. We were going to stay together but we couldn't get all of our dogs and "stuff" in on vehicle, so we needed to drive separately.

Kay was going to meet me at my house and then follow me to Galesburg. It wasn't a difficult drive. We had to get on the Interstate in Cedar Rapids, turn right in Iowa City, left in Davenport and drive on in to Galesburg.

Kay pulled into the driveway at my house and I finished loading things in my car and we were off. Or so I thought. I went to Kay's car to talk to her and she was sitting behind the wheel weeping. It took her several minutes to tell me what was wrong. In between sobs she admitted that she was afraid to drive!

I was not the most sympathetic person. I told her there was no way that we could cram everything into one car, we had already paid our money and I was going to go whether she went or not. I told her it was too late to back out. She should not think about it and just follow me.

She made it to Galesburg and to many dog events after that. We laughed many times later about how dogs had expanded her life!

---Beth Haley

Some of my "Kay Memories"

Kay was teaching the dumbbell hold to "Lucky" the Samoyed. (Kay had more than one "Lucky" but this was the first one I knew.) Lucky didn't like the dumbbell, so she decided to "hold" Kay instead. So in true Kay fashion, and not flustered in the least, she commanded, "You get my arm out of your mouth!"

Kay's first Pomeranian was "Minute". When Minute was bad at class or at a trial, Kay would threaten her by saying that she would be made into Minute steak for supper.

Kay was such a kind soul that she wouldn't dream of ever withholding treats while training her dogs, even when they were naughty. Her solution? "Bad dog" treats! None of us could tell the difference between her "good dog" treats and her "bad dog" treats, but Kay felt that her dogs fully understood.

Kay always had suggestions for training problems. She helped me solve many. More than once she told me, wearing that big Kay smile: "Just wake up 5 minutes earlier every morning to work on your problem. Certainly you can do that, can't you?" This would always be accompanied with a helpful training tip.

I was very nervous about an upcoming obedience trial in which I would be showing my terrier. Kay made me promise her that I would not walk into the ring if I was at all nervous. So I promised her and I was not nervous, because I could never break a promise to Kay. Thanks to her, we performed very well that day.

---Michele Hartzler

My most memorable remembrance of Kay had to do with a run thru she gave me and Karnac (my Lab before Louie). The Kennel Club was still having classes at Hawkeye Downs.

Karnac saw a buddy of his so he decided to run off and visit with Rambo. Kay went over, took hold of him by the cheeks and grinned at him telling him he was naughty and please never do that again.

Karnac was so sunned that he NEVER ran off even in fly ball.

I have never forgotten this and always have shared it with others.

---Susan Haupt & Louie

I was very new to training my dog and eventually ended up in a class that Kay was instructing. That was pretty much how our friendship started, like many others, learning how to train a dog. I went on to do some formal obedience at Kay's insistence and we ended up traveling together for my first trial. I will never forget it.

The trial was in Peoria. I had a little car with room enough for Sophie and Lucky. She chuckled every time I got Sophie in or out of her crate because it was like I had to pour her in through the top of the crate. She was very reluctant to go. Kay thought it was a training opportunity.

Anyway, I had never entered a trial and didn't know how to fill out the premium or really even what to enter. In Kay's wisdom, since we were going to be there anyway, I should enter both obedience and agility. So that's what I did. I was an absolute mess trying to avoid conflicts, in two different buildings and all. Kay would just reassure me that at the end of the day I would still take my little black dog home and love her OR I could find an unlocked van and send her off with someone else.

This was the same trip that she told me she knew how to get where we were going. She'd been there many times. When we got close to Peoria, I was asking her which exit we needed. Well, she didn't really know because Kenny drove most of the time so she didn't pay attention. We saw many parts of Peoria that afternoon before finally reaching the motel.

Thanks for the memories, Kay. And there were many.

---Rilda Fish

My first memory of Kay was over 10 years ago when I was training Bailey, my standard poodle. Kay always called Bailey "Princess", which was far more fitting to her personality than Bailey. Kay was the most positive trainer I have ever met; her life was a lesson in how to partner with your dog. She devoted her life to saving dogs that had been rejected by others and turning them into top performance dogs. Kay was always willing to help anyone that needed help with training their dog. She always knew I was never the dog's fault and was an advocate for our four legged friends everywhere. God bless Kay for all she did for 4RK9s and the many dogs and humans she mentored and helped along the way.

Kay—you are the best!

---Pat Kramer

I cried this morning remembering Kay and all that she gave to your Club [4RK9s] and to the Obedience community. Smiling through the tears I realized that although I didn't have the opportunity to know Kay well, I did know a lot about her. I remember Kay as friendly, nice, and unfailingly cheerful. But more importantly, I KNOW that she was caring and giving. She gave of herself, and she cared about others, even when faced with enormous difficulties in her own life.

Too often we as a sport, or as a community, recognize those people who achieve titles and awards and not those who make a difference in the lives of others. It's not often that someone can be recognized for both—how wonderful that you have the opportunity to do so now!

---Lorelle Jones

My friend Kay Lowe

Kay came into my life or, better yet, I intruded myself into hers in 1998 after having taken an obedience class in Iowa City. At that time I had acquired a little puppy, Shira, who loved to work and had the makings of a wonderful little dog. Since watching a dog show in Chicago I had become mesmerized by the feats both owners and dogs performed, and I had dreams of becoming one of them. So, I had the dream, the dog, and the, what I needed most of all, was the teacher. An instructor in Iowa City mentioned a lady named Kay Lowe who worked at Coe College and was, according to him, a fantastic teacher. The next morning I picked up the phone, called Coe, and found Kay. Little did I know then that, at that moment, my life would be forever changed!

As I explained to Kay my hopes and desires and emphasized my need for private lessons right then and there, she listened attentively to my chatter, occasionally interrupting me with questions about my new puppy. When I finished she agreed to meet us. It was then that I began to discover the depth of her generosity, kindness, and selfless ways!

From then on Kay took us under her wings, and helped us continuously, teaching us everything she knew. Her goodness and graciousness were boundless and, as I insisted to pay her for her countless hours she spent with us, she refused to accept any form of payment explaining that my learning and having fun were payment enough for her.

As our friendship grew I also found out that she had a way of finding something good in everyone and in every dog. When I helped her teach a "home obedience" class I would often point out that some of the classes were too large, some of the owners and dogs too wild, and she needed to turn some people away. It was then that Kay would patiently explain that such and such owner really needed to be there, that underneath that wild dog behavior was hidden a very docile and lovely creature waiting to come out, and that every dog and person can be rescued, salvaged, and loved.

And, throughout her life, my beloved friend Kay rescued, salvaged, and loved many two and four-legged creatures that came her way!

Thank you, Kay!

---Andrea Liu