

# In Memory

## MAEVY'S STORY

2004 was a year of loss for me... I became an orphan, lost at love and was fearful of losing my job... I don't recall ever being so bereft or feeling more alone.

Then slowly things began to change. I started considering the possibilities of expanding my menagerie to include a dog. One snowy December day, my daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, *lured* me to the Summit County Animal Shelter under the pretense of "Just Looking". The rest is history. On December 9, 2004, "Maevy Elizabeth", a 5 month old Husky/Shepherd puppy, roared into my life, and turned my well ordered existence upside down. In the tradition of the Australian Aborigines, "Maevy" would periodically go on "walk-about"; she was arrested twice. One Thanksgiving Eve, she slipped her lead, went into the hospital through the loading dock and made an unscheduled visit to the Emergency Room. She conducted major excavation projects in my back yard. I was driving a "fur-lined" vehicle and had more dog treats in my cupboard than people food. **But, Oh joy that pup brought to me!** She gave me a reason to go on and forced me to move forward. She possessed such sweetness of character. Because of "Maevy's," loving attention my then 4 year old Granddaughter was able to grow past her terror of dogs. They became fast friends. "Maevy" was a grand traveling/hiking/camping companion. We went everywhere together, she was even willing (reluctantly) to ride in my Kayak. When Maevy was 9, in spite of being discouraged by nay-sayers, I began to explore possibilities of she and I becoming a Therapy Team. Maevy passed with flying colors!! She had found her calling. We worked as a read team at Summit Cove Elementary, assisted with the Shelter's Humane Education Program, participated in

the 9 News Health Fair and had a regular gig at Timberline Adult Day. Everywhere she went, Maevy made friends. She was a star.

On May 12, 2015, Maevy unexpectedly passed away. I miss her beyond measure. One incident that occurred about a year after I adopted "Maevy" pretty much says it all: I was walking her near the Middle School and a young boy came up and asked where I had gotten my dog. I explained that she was from the shelter. He said; "Oh you saved her." And without even skipping a beat, I replied; "No, she saved me". How blessed I am to have had this incredible creature in my life.



Holly Holden May 2016

**Post Script:** Special thanks to Donna Corcel, Lyn Manton-Krueger and Susan Alderman. Their encouragement, guidance and support helped Maevy and me to realize our full potential as a Therapy Team.