

Mica 1996-2010

Mica was our Border Terrier. He was born in 1996 in the Kobold Kennel in Firth, Idaho. Kobold's owners named all of their dogs after minerals. Mica was sent to a couple in Oregon as soon as he was socialized and able to leave his mother. Mica's new owners trained him for the conformance competition in dog shows.

In the fall of 1999 my wife Lynn and I were ready to adopt another dog when we learned that Mica's owners had decided to retire him from the show ring in order to concentrate on a new puppy. He had achieved the level of Champion in the American Kennel Club and was a few points short of becoming a Champion in the Canadian Kennel Club. We adopted Mica in December, shortly after he had turned three years old.

Mica learned quickly, and soon adapted to his new surroundings. It was very easy to make Mica happy: eating, playing ball, taking a walk, going for a ride, and lying beside us on the bed to take a nap were some of his favorite things. On special occasions we allowed him to play with (dismember) a stuffed toy. He never caused problems by digging, barking, or chewing on inappropriate things.

After a bad experience at a boarding clinic (Willow Creek was filled) we started taking Mica with us everywhere we went. He had always been our companion on day trips, now he started to accompany us on over-night trips. He was an enthusiastic traveler, eager to get in the car when it was time to go, and eager to get out and explore when we stopped.



Writer's Block

We discovered it was not always easy to get motel reservations with a dog, and some of the motels that accepted dogs were lax about cleaning and maintenance. In 2005 we bought a travel trailer to make it easier to travel with Mica. He accompanied us to the following destinations:

- Ephraim (Scandinavian Festival)
- St. George, Las Vegas
- Wendover (Air Show)
- Rockport Reservoir
- St. George, Grand Canyon (south rim)
- Moab

Tetons
Jordanelle Reservoir
Mt. Nebo
Brigham City (Peach Days), Logan, Bear Lake, Woodland, UT (western Uintahs)
Cedar City, Cedar Breaks, Zions
Bethany, Connecticut
Steamboat Springs, Flaming George

Toward the end of his life Mica was battling Cushing's disease, and diabetes, and he became very frail. He had to eat a special diet because of kidney problems, and liver problems. He had lost most of his eye sight due to the diabetes. He was also starting to show signs of senility.

On May 28th, 2010 Mica stopped eating. The next morning he couldn't keep water down. We went to the clinic and had Mica euthanized.

Euthanasia feels arbitrary when there isn't an acute, untreatable condition. The doctors at Willowcreek probably could have dealt with Mica's latest digestive upset and kept him alive and comfortable for some time. But the quality of life (his and ours) had deteriorated so much that it didn't seem worth it to put him through any more treatments.

There's hardly an hour that goes by that we aren't reminded of Mica, and the good times the three of us had together.

Bob and Lynn Bench