

July 8, 2010

Hi Dan,

Craig and I are writing with some very sad news to share. We lost our Abby a week ago today. As you can imagine, it has been a really hard last few weeks. It has been so hard to accept that she probably wasn't going to be with us much longer and it is still so hard to accept that she is actually gone.

For some time now Abby had been living with a neurological disease. It came on quickly where she had limited use of her hind legs. We are very grateful to Renee Palmer since she was able to supply her with medication that controlled the disease and give her quality of life. In fact up until a five days before she passed, you would have never known anything was wrong. She was her spunky self, running around house, kennel, and fields. Two Sundays ago, the disease must have spread beyond a critical point and Abby quickly went downhill. There was nothing more that we could do for her. We simply kept her comfortable since she was not in any pain and she fell asleep for the last time.

I don't know if I ever told you this, but Abby was my first dog. In fact, when I met Craig, he quickly learned that Abby and I were a package deal. Craig gave Abby her first quail to carry around as pup, and later helped her to do what she loved, bird hunt. I shot my first bird over Abby and ran my first tournament with Craig and Abby. Things haven't been the same for Abby and I since. I am thankful, now more than ever, that Abby was recognized as part of the Hall of Fame. Beyond this, you were so kind to include me in her story when it really was her and Craig's wild ride. Thank you.

This might seem silly to some, but I'm sure not you; Craig and I feel so fortunate to have had Abby in our lives for a lot of reasons. Yes, she lit it up in the field, but she was a gentle, attentive soul off the field. In fact, she would wake up with me in the middle of the night to care for Aubrey when she was a baby. It is tough to realize that she won't be here to help Craig and I through the night with our new little coming this fall. We are going to miss snuggling with her on the couch and her giving us five before she gets her treats. Most importantly we are going to miss having her by our side day in and day out. We loved her dearly.

Thank you again Dan, for all your support of Abby and her efforts over the years. Craig and I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Teri