

Tribute to Roy Wash

By Vickie Miyaoka, Furry Friends Team Captain

Roy joined Furry Friends in November of 2000, and was a dedicated member for over two decades. Some of the words you might hear to describe Roy are . . . devoted . . . kind . . . a gentleman . . . thoughtful . . . easy-going . . . always willing to lend a hand . . . someone you could count on. I had the privilege of serving with Roy on the Lucile Packard's Children's Hospital Saturday team for over 14 years. Roy was at the launch of the first Saturday team visit in April of 2003, and he was at our last visit in August of 2017. That's the way Roy was, he saw things through from beginning to end.

Roy absolutely loved visiting with the children at the hospital and always with a Golden by his side . . . first Rochelle, and then Sophia. Both dogs relished being in Roy's sunshine and would gaze up at him with adoring eyes. You know how people say, "I want to come back as your dog!" . . . well, that was never more true than with Roy. Once you were part of his family, you were there to stay and treated as a valued member.

Our visits were filled with many magical moments that bonded our team together. Seeing a child joyfully petting our furry friends while recovering from open heart surgery or brain surgery is a sight that can't adequately be put into words. Or the sheer happiness on a parent's face when they see their child smiling for the first time in a very long time. Hearing the parent call another family member, "You have to come see this, she's smiling!" with a tear rolling down their cheek. It's a magical moment in time that you will never forget. These are just some examples of the gifts that Roy gave to the children and their families. Gifts that are truly "priceless" in the truest definition of the word . . . so precious that its value cannot be determined.



To Julie and Roy's family, on behalf of the LPCH team please know that we feel so grateful to have known Roy and to have served with him for so many, unforgettable years. We will miss him greatly. One thing I feel certain of is that all the love Roy poured into the children at LPCH will live on. He helped with their healing and their journey forward. All the time and heart that Roy gave so generously to others in need will continue to resonate here on earth. There is good in the world. Roy was proof of that.

