

Losing Antsy

by Jennifer Schaaff & Andy Harden

Eight months ago, someone special came into our life. Antsy had retired from a successful show career, winning Best in Futurity, Best in Maturity and multiple Best in Specialties. Greg and Amy thought she would enjoy spending the rest of her life with her daughter, Addy, and us.

We took Antsy to be spayed. We had considered all the pros and cons of the surgery, but we had no idea that morning would be the last time we saw her alive. She was lost under anesthetic, and upon asking questions and doing more research, we believe strongly that this tragedy could have been avoided.

The vet had performed the surgery without consulting Antsy's chart. She had been under anesthetic twice previously with this same vet, yet the vet made statements such as, "Next time, I guess I'll use half the anesthetic on a Weimaraner," and "Oh, that's the one who had the c-section."

While Antsy was still trying to pull out of anesthetic, the staff had put her on the concrete floor, without any heat source, in front of a crate containing a small barking dog. No technician was with her; no one was observing her. There was no monitor on her. When we went to say good-bye to Antsy, the vet had her personal dogs running loose in the clinic. We expected professionalism; we got complacency and incomplete care.

We have learned never to be too cautious with a pet. Once they go through those doors and into the operating room, we have no knowledge of the level of care they receive. We understand that things can go wrong, but we should always receive complete and competent care.

A few things we have learned from our experience are provided below. If these suggestions can help save one dog's life, then this story has served its purpose, and Antsy

has helped future dogs avoid this same unfortunate fate.

- Find out what kind of anesthetic is being used. Propoflo has been reported to have the fewest reactions. It may be more expensive than injectable anesthetics, but is worth the fee.
- Ask the vet how he determines the quantity of anesthetic to administer. The answer should be "to effect" NOT "by weight." Like people, some dogs can react to anesthetic. Remember that more can always be given during surgery if needed, but you can't take it out of the system once it's been given.
- Find out what the clinic's monitoring process is, post surgery. Do they keep a monitor on the dog at all times? Does a technician sit with the dog until she is "in the clear?"
- If at all possible, find a hospital with an anesthetist on staff (teaching schools or Veterinary colleges are suggested). Anesthetists spend years learning how properly to administer a variety of anesthetics. Most veterinarians receive only a small amount of training. This is a more costly option, but it may save your pet's life.

Antsy changed our life like no other dog we have known. She was loyal, respectful and only wanted love. Her biggest fear was to upset us. When she looked into our eyes we knew what she was thinking and feeling. Antsy adapted so well to our home - and quickly. She was bit reserved, but Addy taught her how to be a boat dog, swim in the ocean and chase birds at the mulch pit. We think of Antsy everyday, and we see how much Addy misses her. We often find Addy lying on Antsy's bed, suckling her blanket. Our life has changed with the loss of Antsy, and we will forever remember her. Our home and our hearts feel empty.

Ch Unitys Anson My Pants

(Ch Valmar's Unanimous Decision, NSD BROM x Ch Ansons Shasta Daisy)

July 29, 2003 - December 7, 2007

*I lost a treasured friend today.
The little dog who used to lay,
Her gentle head upon my knee,
And share her silent thoughts with me.
She'll come no longer to my call.
Retrieve no more her favorite toy.
A voice far greater than my own,
Has called her to his golden throne.*



**Antsy was bred by Jan Lowe & Ramona Ramov.
She is deeply missed by all who knew her.**

**Sweet dreams, Ant. We love you.
Andy, Jen, Greg & Amy**