

Dedication

The AH Insurance Services website, redesigned in the Spring of 2010, is dedicated to the memory of my precious dog Charley. He was a loyal friend and loving companion, and during his time here he touched the hearts of so many people who met him.



Charley was born on August 9, 2002 in Bushnell, Florida. I became his devoted owner when he was eight weeks old. While it wasn't an easy decision, I picked him over his brother once his breeders told me Charley would grow to be the bigger Chihuahua. Sure enough, by the time Charley was a few years old he tipped the scales at over 11 pounds.

For three years, Charley enjoyed living in an 18th floor condo in Sand Key overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. In 2004 we endured the four hurricanes that struck Florida including Hurricane Charley, which at the last minute veered southward away from Tampa Bay.

Following his early years in Sand Key, we resided for a year and a half in the Feather Sound area of Clearwater, right on the edge of a golf course. It was here that Charley earned his nickname "King of Feather Sound." Despite his smaller stature, Charley didn't know his size and liked to show the other dogs in the neighborhood who was boss.

Charley loved running around on the golf course at night, and he was always on the lookout to chase rabbits or tree the nearest squirrel. After a good rain, much to my chagrin he was eager to find any worms that had surfaced so he could roll over on them.

He was irresistible to adults and kids alike, and especially sweet and gentle with small children. When my neighbors' granddaughters were visiting, Charley one-by-one would pin them down on their backs and give them kisses while they giggled and basked in his love. Every time the girls arrived in Florida, they would immediately ask for Charley.

He spent his final three years living at our new town home in Seminole. After falling ill in March this year, he was diagnosed with a rare sarcoma that had progressed to form a large tumor in one of his lungs. On March 21st, the FVS surgeons in Tampa successfully removed the largest lobe of that lung, and following albumin transfusions, use of a chest tube and a feeding tube, Charley fought through and recovered in the oxygen box.

Charley came home on March 27th and made a 100% recovery. His incision healed, the staples were removed from his chest and the fur shaved from surgery slowly grew back.

It was heartbreaking in May when it became apparent malignant cells were spreading, this time to his skin and ultimately to his internal organs. On May 27th, exactly two months after coming home from the hospital, Charley passed peacefully in my arms.

Charley -- you were an Angel to me -- and we all love and miss you. I'll always cherish our time together. Rest peacefully in your eternal sleep and know our bond lives forever.

- Andrew Herman, Memorial Day 2010