

Madison Bentley

A Dog's Love

I could not imagine growing up without my best friend. She has been there through the good times and the bad, silently comforting me. Her warm embraces and morning greetings help me start my day. She has taught me responsibility and how to care for others. She is my rock and an immense component of my support system throughout life. She lifts my spirits when I am saddened, while also keeping me grounded. My best friend, Pumpkin, a Boston Terrier, will forever be a part of my life.

As a four-year-old child, I received my beloved pet as a gift from my parents. I was so surprised and excited to care for my first puppy. She was so tiny but also so loving. I chose the name Pumpkin because she had a black spot on her white neck that resembled a pumpkin. She helped me become responsible at such a young age because I had to feed, water, walk, and care for her. Although my parents would help me if needed, I accepted the role as her owner. I was responsible for another life and it made me feel important. Throughout the years, we continued to build an unbreakable, lasting bond.

Pumpkin has endured several medical hardships throughout her life. Unfortunately, she broke her leg at a young age and continues to suffer with arthritis due to the injury. Pumpkin has also had to adjust to blindness due to aging. These trials have brought us closer together through tears and triumphs. She continues to rely on me for support and I on her for comfort. She has witnessed hardships in my life and my medical issues, always laying by my side and giving comfort and warmth. We have built an inseparable bond that I will never be able to duplicate. I truly believe that she has aided in my growth as an individual and she continues to influence my life today.

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As I leave for college, I do worry that her life will be turned upside down. She has such a connection with me that she paces and whines when I am not near. One of her favorite hobbies is to keep tabs on me, following me around the house from room to room. She sleeps with me every night, laying close for support. College will be a new chapter in my life, but I believe that I will miss Pumpkin most of all.

I feel sorry for those who have not experienced owning a pet. Pets give comfort in times of hardship. They are silent partners in our life journey, offering unconditional love and support through kisses, condolences, and warmth. Our responsibility as pet owners is to make their life as comfortable and carefree as possible. As we go through life we build and break relationships with people every day, but the relationships we build with our pets are something that will be everlasting. Their short time on this Earth makes one want to shower them with as much love as one can as they continue to teach us, comfort us, love us, and rely on us.