

A Dog Understands

Here is a beautiful, but tear-jerker story showing the connection and dedication of a beloved dog to his family. It is a testament to their emotional capacity, resilience and intelligence. Perhaps sharing this story will help enlighten others about the true nature and being of these wonderful creatures. I know I am truly blessed with every animal companion I get to share my life with. Thank you Dr. Fox!

Dog 'understood' master's death

ANIMAL DOCTOR
DR. MICHAEL FOX



Dear Dr. Fox: I'm writing in response to your recent column about how a "dog's devotion to master can lead to the grave." It is similar to what occurred with our golden retriever more than 20 years ago when my husband died at 46 after a four-year battle with cancer. During my husband's illness, our dog Friday never left his side. He obviously knew something was wrong and was devoted to his master.

After my husband's death (in the hospital), Friday sat at the front door all day, every day, whining and waiting for my husband's return. He stopped eating and wouldn't leave the front hallway. He refused to play with our children whom he loved

we walked together toward my husband's gravesite. As we got closer, Friday pulled away from me and ran directly to my husband's grave. He lay down on the grave, closed his eyes, and just stayed there, quietly. I didn't try to talk to Friday or to disturb him. After an hour, Friday got up and walked over to me, using his mouth to hand me his leash. He was ready to go home.

After we arrived home, he kept kissing my hands as if to say "thank you" and never again sat by the front door waiting for my husband to return home. He now understood. Although obviously sad, his behavior returned to normal and he began eating again. In time, he healed as we did.

Dr. Fox says: Many readers will join me in thanking you for this remarkable example of giving a dog clo-

