

One True Friend at Christmas Time and Always

It has been a difficult and tumultuous year for so many of us. We have experienced the dramatic decline of our economy. Many of us have lost not only money, but also our jobs – and even our homes. Many of us have lost loved ones. Others have faced serious, debilitating, even life-threatening illnesses. We have witnessed the horrors of the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile and natural disasters in other parts of the world. We have experienced the effects of the BP Oil Spill – one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in history. We have lost the comforting and inspiring fellowship of many leaders and artists. Yet, somehow we continue to endure – and survive.

This holiday season may find us more alone and lonely than ever before. Friends and relatives are few and far away. We feel alienated and detached from the merry-making, kinship and celebrating of those around us. We can only hope and pray for peace and goodwill in a world that seems perilously out-of-kilter and topsy-turvy.

I have personally found deep comfort and support from my own profound spiritual faith and through the presence, love, loyalty and devotion of the animal companions with whom I share my life. It is the beauty, purity-of-spirit, grace, joy, gratitude, friendship and companionship (and lack of deceit and materialism) of these wonderful creatures that give me cause to hope for a happier, deeper, richer and more fulfilling life for all of us.

And so, especially during this time of year, when I am so thankful for all the blessings in my life, I express my gratitude for those voiceless, helpless and vulnerable creatures that seek so little from us as humans and provide us with so much love, laughter, beauty, gratitude and joy.

The following are some quotes, which I hope you, will find inspiring – especially as they may relate to the friendship which many of us are privileged enough to receive from our beloved animal companions.

“When it hurts to look back, and you’re scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your best friend will be there.” –

----- Anonymous

“A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.”

----- Walter Winchell

“We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.”

-----Robert Lewis Stevenson

“My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me.”

-----Henry Ford

“A friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you just the same.”

-----Proverb

“Don’t walk in front of me, I may not follow;
Don’t walk behind me, I may not lead;
Walk beside me, and just be my friend.”

-----Albert Camus

“There is nothing on this earth to be prized more than true friendship.”

-----St. Thomas Aquinas

“Who finds a faithful friend finds a treasure.”

-----Jewish Saying

“True friends are always together in spirit.”

-----Lucy Mead Montgomery

“Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave
footprints in your heart.”

-----Unknown

I hope that all of you are blessed with the true friendship and companionship of a beloved
animal companion. May all of you have a wonderful, beautiful, and blessed holiday and
a joyous, PEACEFUL New Year!

