

Dear Friends,

My heart is heavy with grief. I can hardly find the words to say what I must, because it is so painful.

Wednesday morning at 2:45 am, in the company of me, Scott, Winkie and Sissy, our dear Tina passed away. She was calm; her eyes were soft and ever knowing. I could not help myself, I begged her to stay. But she just looked at me in her tender Tina way and I knew that her decision was made. She was going home, leaving us to feel that excruciating void that only the loss of a great love can cause.

I am so very sorry to bring you this painful news, it breaks my heart. I wished for a miracle and then realized that Tina is the miracle. She has touched so many lives in her short 34 years. Her health and welfare raised awareness collectively, individually, locally and internationally. Resulting in an entire community coming together in one of the most selfless and righteous act of kindness known; letting Tina go. Tina embodied love and compassion and imparted that to everyone she met. You were there when Tina needed you most, she knew. Even after she was freed to come live with us at the Sanctuary, you remained her family, continually concerned for her welfare and happiness. Tina knew, she always knew. Magnetism was her very essence and a huge loving heart, her legacy. We are all blessed to have known and loved her. Her absence will create an unbearable void.

Over the next few weeks a wave of sorrow will blanket every person and place that Tina touched. Please reach out to each other for comfort, Tina would want it that way. It helps me to see her in my minds eye; that Cheshire cat grin from ear to ear and sparkling eyes, mischievous and innocent. Unconditional love radiating from her, engulfing me in a warm blanket of pure joy. You have felt this also, it is Tina's special gift to you. I know you cherish it as I do.

We do not know what caused Tina's death. Her foot condition was improving and there were no signs of a problem until a few days ago when we noticed that she was having difficulty coordinating her movements. When she tried to put food into her mouth she would miss, hitting her chest or face instead. The effort did not appear to be painful, just awkward. After consulting with our vets, we ran tests and started Tina on a new remedy and saw an immediate improvement. Two days later her motor skills again appeared to be impaired, again her remedy was adjusted and we saw an improvement. Then on Monday she began to eat less and the stiffness in her legs was worse than we had seen in the past. She was given additional therapies, her response was good. Then early Wednesday morning she quietly folded to the floor in the barn. We attempted to hoist her to her feet but it appeared that she was unable to place her legs underneath herself, as if she had no muscle control. We helped her to gently lie over on her side on a mattress of hay. She relaxed onto the hay and then without a fight, not a groan or complaint, she passed away.

As Tina's necropsy results become available I will share the information with you. Losing Tina is painful enough, not knowing why is unbearable. I pray for answers.

We share a special love and profound grief for our beloved Tina.

Namaste,
Carol