

Gina, Canine partner of Pam Bertz, PSW 1999 - 2012

The beloved companion and Therapy dog of Pam Bertz and HOPE & Therapy dog for handler Noreen Yoshida-Peer. She was our sweet little girl, who overcame so many obstacles. She was abused and left in the desert and found her way to a shelter, where we were fortunate to find her at 1 1/2 yrs. old. She was deathly afraid of men and most sudden movements. But she overcame all her fears in order to follow her "sister" Cinder into Therapy Dog work in 2004 and then into HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response in 2005. She overcame spinal surgery and countless bouts with allergies. Her main desire was to curl up with you, be petted and loved, and in turn return that love. She was also in seventh heaven when she got her teeth brushed and had her fur blown away by either the hair dryer or the wind. She loved the outdoors and especially her trips to the ranch in Colorado with the horses.

Between 2004 and 2012 she touched so many lives and gave so many hope, compassion, and love. Her story, and the help she gave to one young man she bonded with at a youth shelter, are told in a book *To the Rescue - Found Dogs with a Mission* by noted writer Elise Lufkin, and for which she won an Honorable Mention in Delta Society's Beyond the Limits award. She retired from HOPE work in 2010 due to physical problems, but still looked forward to, and loved the visits at the youth shelters.

To my sweet little girl so full of love and compassion - we love you and now you can rest easy, run and play with abandon, as your "job" with us is done.

With all our Love,
Mom, Dad and Cinder