

Sonny - beloved HOPE dog of Carla Prinkki, RMR

Carla Prinkki of Roberts, MT lost her beloved HOPE dog, "Sonny," on March 19, 2012. He died peacefully during his morning nap. Sonny, a blue merle smooth collie, was 10-years-old. In 2011, Sonny (whose AKC registered name is Blue Fox United We Stand CGC) received the Beartooth Humane Alliance's Purple Paw award, presented to animals that have made a contribution through a heroic act or outstanding demonstration of the human-animal bond.

This was shown when Carla and Sonny were called to a middle school where students had lost a classmate in a car accident. "We stayed later than the other teams," said Carla. "And as we were ready to leave, the teacher of the child who was killed came to us. Sonny gently snuggled close to him offering quiet presence while the teacher poured out his feelings. He then thanked us profusely... it was a truly beautiful moment I will treasure always." (Carla adds: The teacher's last name, quite fittingly, was Hope.)

Sonny became a HOPE dog in 2008 and had that innate canine sense of timing and action so valued in traumatic situations. He was well trained in human therapy, crisis response and reading assistance and will be so missed.