

CANINE CORNER

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Ways to remember..

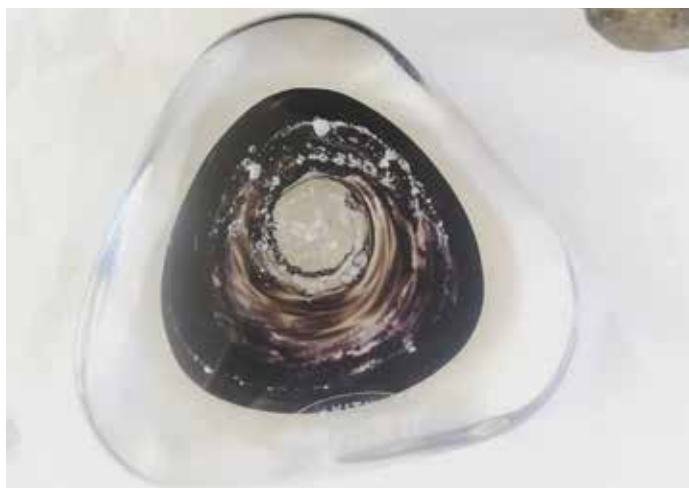


Grieving is a highly individual experience; what one person experiences on the loss of a dog may be quite different from another.

This year, I've been particularly moved by several tributes chosen by owners who have suffered the loss of their beloved dogs and I thought I would share them with readers.

Bergie, a 12-year old greyhound, succumbed to osteosarcoma with a rapid decline in his health. His family, who live in the Christchurch suburb of New Brighton, wanted him remembered as the dog who was the original user and unofficial spokesdog for an off-lead area in the red zone near his home. Friends of the family commissioned two different signs as gifts for his parents. Friends were invited to the park's dedication when the signs were erected. Bergie's legacy will live on as there are many users of Bergie's Park.

Ben, also a greyhound, was taken far too young with lung cancer earlier this year. His mum and dad had him cremated but searched for the right way to keep his ashes as a memento of his large presence in their lives. An urn did not seem appropriate. They decided on a touchstone made by Hokitika Glass. A small amount of Ben's ashes was sent to Hokitika and incorporated into the stone.



Finally, neighbourhood dog Pip, a rescue Labrador, passed suddenly after a short illness. Since Pip was known by many people, who she would greet from under the fence, the family decided they needed to share news with the many people who had made it a habit to stop and pay her attention.

On a chilly winter morning, I passed their gate and noticed a laminated sign. Long-time readers may recognise Pip because she featured in my *NZ Dog World* column in September 2014, where I discussed the importance of introducing your dogs to your neighbours and neighbourly support during emergencies. 🐾

