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Dr. William Van Hooser
Carriage Hills Animal Hospital and Pet Resort
3200 Eastern Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36116

14 January 2013

Dear Dr. Van Hooser:

First, I want to thank you personally and Carriage Hills Animal Hospital for the care given to Bubbles throughout the time she was with us. From the first visit, her hip surgery, and the final day of her life, you have been there to help us with Bubbles' care and the longevity of her 15 years of life.

Next, let me express my sincere thanks for being there on Saturday, 12 January, 2013, when Tera brought Bubbles in for the final time. Tera was the one who brought Bubbles from the Montgomery Humane Shelter to our house, and she was the one who brought Bubbles home for the final time. I asked Tera if she wanted me to go with her, but she said that she would do this. It's been hard, as you might imagine, on us all. Although I think Tera is a bit tougher than I am in certain instances, when it comes to our beloved pets, I am as tender hearted about them as any person on the face of the Earth. Even in the years I served in the Navy, witnessed much of what I never believed possible, and was toughened through training and hardship, losing a pet is not easy. I'd rather the ship went down from under my feet and fight sharks than to lose Bubbles, but God only can provide those answers through comfort.

Tera has been a God send, not only as a wonderful daughter, but when it comes to Bubbles and one day Sierra. She buried Bubbles near one of her favorite spots in the yard. I often write when I face these events to release hurt, and I have done so in this case. I am including the writing because you were Bubbles's vet. You also remember how sweet Bubbles was through the years. I don't think she ever had a growl for anyone or a bad bark to offer, less her usual barking at the fireworks!

I believe that God made these creatures to be with us to show us that the bounds of Love extend in many directions, much as His love is extended to us in many ways: Bubbles was like that and she was more than just a "dog" to the family. I don't know if I ever relayed the story to you about the time Bubbles was at the full recovery point after her second hip surgery. She was so antsy that when I finally released her, she took off running towards the back fence and I just knew she was going to either bust through or hit it and end up back at your office! She literally stopped 3 feet short of the fence and to this day, I don't know how. Soon after that running-marathon, Sierra was over (Tera's other pup). Bubbles, I think in their language, wanted to show off her new hips. She started running around Sierra, jumping at her, and enticing her to chase her. Sierra, being a good bit younger, started chasing as if to say, "Oh, yeah! Let me show you a thing of two, you old bag-a-bones!" Well, the short of the story is that Bubbles, with those new wheels in her powerhouse, made some of the best zig-zag moves I think I have ever seen—whether in the backyard, on the football field, or anywhere

else for that matter. She zigged and zagged so fast while adding head-bobs, poor Sierra literally fell over. It was a sight right out of a comedy routine! I think Bubbles was looking back over her shoulder and I could almost see a “puppy-grin” on her face. But, that was our Bobo.

While it probably is a bit on the far side, I don’t know what happens to our pets when they leave us. Whether God has a place for them is a mystery to me. I would like to think that they will be with us in Heaven, made whole and running and zig-zagging, free from pain, as we will be free from pain, tears, and hurt. I guess that will be one of the questions that I’ll have to ask upon arrival at the Gates of Heaven. I would love to see Bubbles again, and to see her enjoying the freedom of flying though the ‘yard’ as if she has not a care in the world in which she lives as “man’s and daughter’s best friend”—now Heaven’s Best Friend.

Again, Bill, please know that I so much appreciate you being there for Tera and Bubbles on the 12th of January. I can’t imagine the strength it takes to endure this type of event as it occurs in the lives of those who love our pets as family, not as a burden to be cared for. If I were a rich man, I would give much to Carriage Hills Animal Hospital to support research, care, facilities, and so forth. And if that should happen, I will make a significant contribution in Memory of Bubbles. Please know that I speak from the heart, not as a casual thing to remark. You and Carriage Hills have and continue to make a real difference in the lives of pet owners throughout the city.

In closing, the additional years we had with Bubbles as a result of your surgery on her hips, is a Blessing that I hope and pray God has given a tenfold increase to you, your family, and your work. My dad—whom I love dearly—can at times be oversimplified in his approach. In 1999/2000 when Bubbles was going to have the surgeries, my dad suggested that I have her put down and get a new dog. I cannot imagine what we as a family would have missed if we had made that choice. Bubbles gave us so much and I will miss that “sweet dog” like I miss family already gone Home. If this makes me a crazy old grandfather, then I guess calling me crazy is normal for me.

My most sincere thank you, Dr. Van Hooser. I pray that God, in Christ, will bless you beyond what you can even imagine in your life. You are the Hands of His work in the lives of the creatures that He has made. I can imagine Him at work as He is thinking about using His own hands as He made Bubbles and sent her to live in this world knowing that Tera would be at the Shelter at the precise appointed time. I can imagine Him as he is smiling at the love Bubbles brought to our family. I pray He is smiling now because He holds Bubbles in His hands—again.

God Bless You,

Ken Scott & Tera Scott & Bubbles