

# A Letter to my Dog

NOTES TO OUR BEST FRIENDS  
BY ROBIN LAYTON



Urban Animal have five copies of *A Letter to My Dog* to give away to lucky readers and our Facebook Fans. Please see page 37 for details.

Written with love, these letters and their accompanying photographs give dogs the recognition they deserve.

*Robin Layton is a highly respected photojournalist who at just the age of twenty-four was honoured by LIFE Magazine as one of the most talented photographers in America. She lives with her partner and two dogs in Seattle.*

**Armando  
Martinez:**  
*Roscoe*



Roscoe is my dog. I like him and he likes me. He gives me his paw and does not bite my hand. He runs with me, jumps on me, and he grabs me. He keeps strangers away. His bark is loud and funny. Roscoe is a big dog. He snores a lot and yawns. He gets happy when I get home, so I give him a kiss. We grew up together. He is 5 years old. He kind of looks like me. I like running up the hills with him. He is my favourite dog. I love him because he does not eat people. Armando

Dear Crosby,

You're the best friend anyone could have. There are so many ways you are special to me. Like when I'm upset, you're always there, no matter what. I know I can always count on you.

You are so sweet, loving, playful, and sometimes getting into trouble! There is nothing that could replace you. I love when you roll onto your belly and give me a big, slobbery lick.

I had to beg my parents for more than four years to get you. No matter how much trouble you get in, I will always love you.

Love, Anna

P.S. You look beautiful when your pretty fur coat flows in the wind. Also, please stop eating my socks.

**Anna  
Mialky:**  
*Crosby*



*My handsome Wonder Boy,  
 Every time I look into your eyes, I can see all the  
 way to the marrow of your heart.  
 I quite simply adore you. And love that you can't  
 seem to get enough love from anyone. You're  
 always pawing for more. More hugs, more rubs,  
 more kisses on your gorgeous muzzle.  
 From the first day we took you home, there was  
 a majesty about you. You were the regal one  
 with depth and soul. You were supposed to be  
 Stedman's dog. But for sure, your heart belongs  
 to me. And mine to you. When all the others are  
 out busy sniffing for adventure, you're the one  
 who returns repeatedly to the trail to see if I'm  
 OK and following your lead, the one waiting on  
 the porch for my return from places too far off  
 for a dog mind to ponder.  
 You're in the now, always present. Always Love.  
 You're my Alpha.  
 You're my dear, handsome Wonder Boy.*



**Oprah  
 Winfrey:**  
*Luke (a.k.a.  
 Wonder Boy)*

**Kelly  
 Preston:**  
*Bear*



*My dear, sweet Bear,  
 You found me when I needed you most. I  
 looked into your eyes and felt I'd known you  
 before. I feel I know who helped guide you to us.  
 So fateful was the day along the road where you  
 were left.  
 Your gentle sweetness helped heal my heart.  
 Some say we rescued you...  
 I think it was the other way around.  
 Love, Kelly.*

The grace of vision in your right eye is gone, but the twinkle still burns strong. In twelve years, you have seen much: a farm built with you running behind the tractor, endless days of veggies and planted, weeding and more weeding. "Why," I know you ask, "do I ever weed so much?" Cold salmon days swimming in Griffin Creek, Super Secret Swims, romps with Flash and Sara J, two boys born, drives across the country, Chautauqua LOVE, friends lost, battles with liver cancer; every day we write a new chapter in gratitude. Your soothing snore and one-of-a-kind swimming fragrance keep us real and give us great vision! Vision and hope to smile and live the days full. You fill me heart with infinite sweetness and your paws pushing through the clear waters of the chilled earth bring pure joy and the simple truth of how little it really takes to be happy: a ball, a lake, a roll!

WE LOVE YOU, MISS ELLA.



**Wendy  
 Munroe:**  
*Ella*

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