

Good Dog

A game about remembrance and grief



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Dedicated to Belle

A good dog

Introduction

Good Dog is a journaling game created to offer a way to see the amazing life of love and devotion that a special dog shared with you from a new perspective: their own. By putting yourself in their paws and considering the moments that made their canine life special, you might gain some sense of peace and comfort.

I hope this game will offer a chance to grieve, a chance to remember, and maybe even a chance to heal.

How to Play

To play Good Dog, you need a single six-sided die, something with which to write (pen and paper or digital), and memories of a faithful canine family member who has passed on. Call that pet to mind, remembering their cold wet nose, their scent, how they showed you they were happy to see you, and the face they made when they were in trouble. Read the description below, keeping your beloved dog in mind.

You are waiting at the fabled pearly gates, a dedicated pet and friend who is tasked with awaiting your human family to welcome them when they pass on. You may have a long time to wait, but luckily you have a whole life of wonderful memories with your humans to keep you company.

Roll your die three, comparing the results to the prompts below. Spend some time responding to each from the perspective of your dog, considering the things that made their life special. If you repeat numbers, you can respond to the prompt with a different memory, or roll again if you wish.

1. A time my family made me happy was...
2. A favorite memory of the day my family brought me home is...
3. A time I made my family laugh was...
4. One small moment that may have passed my family by but made me feel safe, happy, or loved was...
5. Something silly I always did that made my family smile was...
6. A time I was scared and my family made me feel safe was...

After completing these prompts, you may wish to read what you wrote right away, or wait. Take your time, as your grief is real and the point is not to wring yourself dry.