

Dear Friend

You died yesterday. One minute you were running and leaping about as usual and the next you were lying still in the road.

You always had more life than anyone. You ran for me until I could feel the wind in my face and when you jumped in the air it made my heart leap for joy.

To you it didn't matter if I couldn't talk. You knew me and you knew what I was feeling. If I felt sad you always came out to see me your head on one side to listen.

We did so many things together and I am blessed to have all my memories. If I close my eyes I can still hear your footsteps clattering on the floor.

You always thought I had a treat for you. I never did but you never gave up on me.

You and me were a team. You saw past my differences because you were different too.

If I was lonely, all I had to do was remember I had you and the world seemed better again but now you're gone.

Remember that time going to swim in the river in Oxford? I knew you hated water so you stayed on the bank and I went in on my own. I meant to wave and tell you I was ok but before I could you panicked and even though you were terrified you swam out of your depth to save me. I couldn't believe it when I saw your little head bobbing on the surface. When you got to me you climbed on my back and we swam together to shore.

Show me a better friend if you can. That's the thing, I know I will never find another friend like you. It's so quiet here now. It's calm and only the soft cat's paws can nearly be heard on the wooden floor.

I am not sure when we will ever go for a walk again. Anyway it's dark and raining and if I do it will feel pointless.

Your ashes are waiting for spring, when we will let you free in the field that you loved, where you can rise up from the long grass like you always did.

I will miss your cold nose and your warm licks, your hair everywhere and your great big heart, my faithful friend.