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Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 10:57 PM

To: NIKKI, FRIENDS

Subject: May of 2010

Four years ago, at this time of day, I was lying on the floor with my little Pekingese, Doogie, knowing that I would be saying goodbye very soon. We were giving the meds one last shot to see if we could get him through his discomfort. Two hours later, I knew it was not meant to be. My husband, Doogie, and I got in the car for our last ride together, on the way to Red Bank Hospital in Hillsborough. At 1:15 AM we said our final goodbye to our precious little boy. The days to follow were like walking through hell. I was lost without him. We spent the last 7 years of his life with him as an only child. I couldn't imagine how I could ever love like that again. I believe Doogie knew all we were going through. He was up there in Heaven watching over us, and searching for a way to bring happiness back to our hearts. A few weeks went by, a friend was adopting a Shih Tzu through Shih Tzu and Furbabies Rescue, and asked me to go on-line to look at her. That was so difficult, but I did. After that I went back to that site, just to look. You see, we thought that after the summer, maybe a little sooner, we would adopt another little baby into our lives. It couldn't be a Peke, and it couldn't be a boy. No one could take Doogie's place in our hearts, and I didn't want to compare. It just wouldn't have been fair to our new baby. I couldn't even imagine loving again, although on some level I knew I would.

Well, one thing led to the other, almost out of control, and the next thing we knew we were perspective parents to a little Japanese Chin named Lilly. It was exciting and gave me something to smile about in between the tears for Doogie. My husband and I both knew that Doogie had something to do with this, although we had no concrete proof, at the time. Fast forward 5 weeks, and we were up in East Syracuse, NY picking up our new little girl. Lilly TuShu Kahora was an amazing, and crazy, little Chin who swept us off our feet the minute we met her. She came to us with only one piece of paper which was a vaccine record from FL, where she originated. In glancing over the paper for any info I could find (there wasn't much history on her, and they thought she was somewhere around a year old), I saw a date under DOB (date of birth). I couldn't believe it! I got goose bumps just reading it! Lilly was born May 6th 2009, almost one year ago, to the date that Doogie died, May 7th 2010. That was our sign confirming how we ended up with a new child so soon after Doogie left. Lilly did not take anything away from my love and grief for Doogie. That continued, and both still do to some degree, especially the love.



Today Lilly turned 5 yrs old. Doogie is gone physically from our lives for 4 yrs, in a just a few hours. The tears still came as I wrote this. His spirit lives on through Lilly, and now his brother, Tommy, as well. His love is with us always. By leading us to Lilly he made his anniversary more tolerable each year. We also can celebrate the life and love of Lilly. I've attached 2 of her birthday photos. She wore the dress all day, and loved all the attention she got being so pretty in it.

Please, in honor of Doogie, remember all those little ones you have lost, and in honor of Lilly celebrate their lives, and all that they gave you for the time you were together.

Thank you for listening,
Donna