

A Prayer For All Canine Guardians

Treat me kindly, my friend, for no heart in the world is more grateful than this loving heart of mine.

Don't break my spirit with a stick, even though I might lick your hand between blows. Your patience and understanding will teach me quicker the things you want me to learn.

Speak to me often, for your voice is my world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear.

Please take me inside when it is wet and cold, for I am a domesticated animal, no longer accustomed to bitter elements. I ask no great glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet wherever you are.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food that I may stay well to romp and play and do your bidding...to walk by your side and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life, should your life be in danger.

And...my friend...when I am very old and no longer enjoy good health, hearing and sight, make no heroic efforts to keep me going. Please see that my life is taken gently and be there for me. I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath I draw that my fate was safest in your hands.