



## Jack Cate

July 20, 2024

Jack.

A terrier mix. A full on beloved terror to any wayward socks or plush toys lying about.

He was feisty and brave and a classic example of small dog syndrome. He knew no fear.

Coming from the California desert, I often had to stop him from going after coyotes.

They actually RAN from him. I would have loved to hear the stories that evening back in the coyote den:

"Stay away from that scrappy little guy, he's CRAZY!"

I had five wonderful years of lively loving adventure with Jack. Unfortunately all my love and protection from coyotes, rattlesnakes, cars and other dogs could not protect him from the genetic flaw in his own body.

And when he was diagnosed with IVDD at just five years of age, I knew it would be a death sentence.

He was not the type to be confined to a crate. And all the high impact things he loved to do, would not be allowed in what would have to be his new normal.

And he wasn't normal. That's what made him such a bright light.

So when I made the heartbreaking choice to release Jack's spirit into the

ethers, I knew two things: I wanted him to die in my arms and I wanted him at home with me.

Then I also knew that I wanted to bring his body myself to the crematorium where his remains would be turned to ash in a private cremation.

The process with Loyal and True was heartbreaking and very healing at the same time. From the moment I arrived, Jack and I were treated with such respect and sensitivity and kindness.

They didn't rush me, they let me walk around the garden grounds holding Jack's body wrapped in his favorite blanket a little bit longer before I turned him over to them. They were so kind. And when I shared pictures of him they were genuinely interested and responsive. I really did feel I was leaving him in good caring respectful hands.

I'm grateful to Loyal and True for your dignified, beautiful setting and services, to make a very painful moment flow a bit more gentle through the heart.