



## Kaya Schmidt

July 30, 2016 - April 13, 2026

Kaya Ann McKenzie Schmidt passed away peacefully on April 13, 2026, in the loving arms of her mom and dad. She was, without question, the best friend anyone could have ever asked for.

Born on July 30, 2016, Kaya spent nearly every day by her mom's side - going to work, meeting new people, and making countless friends, both human and canine. She had a presence that people were drawn to, and she left a lasting impression on everyone lucky enough to know her.

Kaya was deeply loved not only by her family, but by so many others whose lives she touched. Summer and Allie, two of her mom's coworkers, were there from the very beginning and loved her as their own. She shared special bonds with her dog friends; Jax, Rufus, Chopper, Tayla, and Mabel. True to her Akita nature, she was selective with her circle, but once you were in, you were hers.

She was kind, lovable, fluffy, and wonderfully stubborn. Through every season of life, Kaya was a constant; steadfast and loyal as her world grew from just her and her mom into a full and loving family. She became the most devoted protector and gentle "mom" to three beautiful girls: Olivia, Shae, and Wrenley. Her love for them was unwavering and pure.

Kaya found joy in life's simple pleasures. She loved hiking through state parks

with her family, splashing in the water (always on her terms), and going on car rides...

especially if they led to food. She was endlessly patient with her mom's grooming experiments, even if she offered the occasional side-eye, and she always seemed proud when she was fresh, clean, and receiving extra attention. Visits to her Gigi's were among her favorites, where she knew an extra bowl of food was always waiting.

Our family deeply misses our best friend and constant companion. We find comfort in imagining her running free and happy again with her friends who went before her, Frankie and Odette.

We are endlessly grateful for the love and support shown to Kaya throughout her life. A heartfelt thank you to Yellow Dog Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Spencer, Dr. Towel, and the entire staff - vet techs and receptionists -who cared for her with such compassion until the very end.

Kaya Ann, you will always be loved beyond words. We carry you with us every day and look forward to the moment we meet again.

With all our love,

Renee (Mom), Nick (Dad), Olivia, Shae, and Wrenley

# Tribute Wall

DS

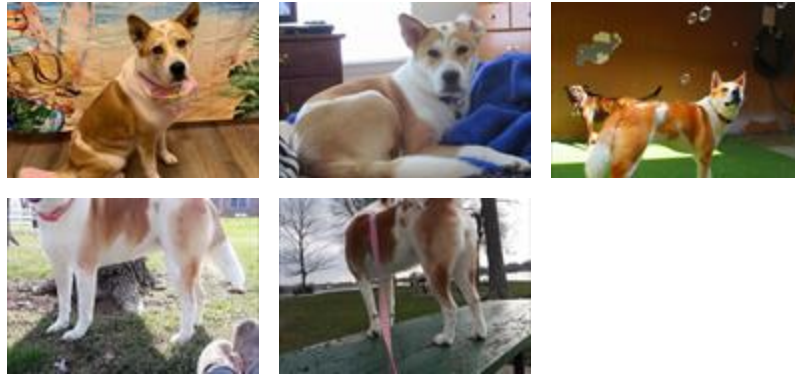
“ We will always remember Kaya's soft fur, her quietness and her gentle mischevious side. Gramma Dana and Poppa will miss her, too.

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**Dana Schmidt** - April 25 at 09:28 AM

RS

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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**Renee Schmidt** - April 24 at 05:14 PM