

## The Story of the Beardie Angel: Honoring the Beardie of my heart

By Lynne Corn and Annette Renard

It all began in September, 2006. It was late on Labor Day Monday, the barbecue was over, the house was clean, and Lynne was getting ready to go to bed. Suddenly, Bryna collapsed at her feet in convulsions. This had never happened before, and Lynne called the emergency vet clinic to say she was on her way. Five more convulsions and 20 hours later, Bryna was put down at the age of 12 and a half. It was the last, most difficult gift Lynne could give her.

We all love *all* of our beardies, but there are some that deserve the title of “The Beardie of My Heart.” Bryna, a lady from start to finish, was that sort of beardie to Lynne. Knowing this, several club members gave Lynne The Beardie Angel a few weeks later. The Angel is all white, and has wings. (Some might even say the Angel looks more bear-ie than beardie.) Lynne loved it and it held an honored place in her living room for over a year. Then Lynne heard that Betsy and Jim Cooke had lost their beloved Chief. Thinking that a gift shared grows even bigger in the giving, Lynne decided to pass the Beardie Angel on to the Cookes. And a quiet NCBCB tradition began.

The Cookes sent the Beardie Angel on to Sandy and John McDonald when O’Shea died. O’Shea was Sandy’s Beardie of My Heart. But no sooner had Sandy found a place for the Beardie Angel in her house than she learned of the death of Tommy. Tommy was Lucy Campbell-Gracie’s Beardie of My Heart. And everyone could hope that the Beardie Angel would not have to go travelling again soon.

But it was not to be. Farley began life in a Forever Home with Roslyn Wingers, Annette Renard’s mother. Annette’s mom died suddenly after having Farley a little more than 18 months. Roslyn knew Annette and David would provide a loving home for Farley. He found a new, wonderful, and long life with Annette and David. At last he could see the Rainbow Bridge, and Annette and David said a reluctant and painful good-bye on Nov. 4. He was 14 and ½ years old. And from Lucy, the Beardie Angel came to stay in a new home and to comfort a family shedding tears.

We hope that the Beardie Angel will have a very long stay with Annette and David. But if you hear of the passing of someone’s else’s Beardie of My Heart, please let Annette know. The Beardie Angel will be ready to travel and give comfort to the next family.