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Baxter...the Dog with the Healing Touch

“Baxter’s inspirational story reminds us how dogs can teach us to live fully in each moment; even if that moment may be our last.”

—Cesar Millan, the *Dog Whisperer*

In her new book, *Moments with Baxter* (Sage Press, \$24.95, June 09), Melissa Joseph has created a collection of touching, true stories about the amazing connection between her dog, Baxter, an 19-year-old therapy dog, and the hospice patients and their families to whom he brings comfort and love to.

Baxter is a rescue dog, part golden retriever and part chow, who came to Melissa when he was two-years-old. At the time, he was going to be euthanized because he had heartworms and his owners could not afford to treat him. A friend of Melissa’s saved him but could not keep Baxter herself, as she already had too many rescued dogs. Melissa’s friend described him as adorable along with the question, “Will you take him, please”? Thus began her life with Baxter.

In her Introduction to the book, Melissa explains how it took almost six weeks to make friends with Baxter. It was obvious that Baxter had been abused in some way by his reaction to certain objects and loud noises. Over time, Melissa took Baxter everywhere she went and he became a very well-socialized dog. From there they could see that he had the compassion and personality to be a great therapy dog and certified him with Therapy Dogs International.

Moments with Baxter is not only a collection of 36 touching true stories, but it is also a testimony to the magical connection between humans and dogs and the healing effect they can have on someone who is physically suffering or facing insurmountable odds. During the last four years, Baxter has helped hundreds of patients ease out of their lives with peace and dignity. Filled with beautiful color photographs that help tell each story, it’s a book that shouldn’t be missed!

About the Author: Melissa Joseph has been volunteering with her therapy dog, Baxter, for over four years. After several years at San Diego Hospice and The Institute of Palliative Medicine, she and Baxter currently volunteer at Palomar Pomerado Hospital in San Diego. She is also an adjunct teacher of writing and literature. Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, she currently resides in San Diego with Baxter and her husband, Dennis. For further information please visit her Web site at www.momentswithbaxter.com

All proceeds from the sale of this book go to charitable causes.