

Brutus, a Great Pyrenees dog, was a pioneering forerunner in Animal-Assisted Therapy. Though somewhat intimidating in size, his regal demeanor and deep brown eyes conveyed his sensitive nature and strong love for people and animals.

In his role as my co-therapist, Brutus wore many hats – both literally and figuratively. He was a master healer who worked his magic with troubled youth; children with ADHD, autism and other disorders; abused children; adults with social phobias and depression; and all kinds of people with various mental and physical challenges.

A two-time national award winner for “distinguished service dog,” Brutus was the official “Meet and Greet” dog for the community-based volunteer program. He worked for many years in the KidsPeace Advances program at the KidsPeace Berks Campus, and helped a multitude of KidsPeace residential clients with their community service projects at his Gress Mountain Ranch

a half years of his life were fraught with increasing physical challenges and complex medical issues.

Brutus was a beloved family member and a majestic guardian of our livestock, our home and our family. He leaves behind his blended family of therapy animals: Kayla, also a Great Pyrenees dog; Muchka, a blue Persian cat; two pot-bellied pigs, Pearl and LeRoy; and two heartbroken humans, me and my husband Ben.



Each life is a miracle that changes the world ... and leaves it a better place than it was before. Brutus did just that. It is with great sadness that I must share that Brutus Gress passed away on August 8, 2004. – Kathryn Gress

Brutus’ ashes are now at his final resting place, The Gress Mountain Ranch. You may call and offer your respects. Ben and I sincerely thank all of you – clients, friends and family – who have supported Brutus and our family.

home. And for all eight and a half years of his illustrious career, Brutus made the rounds visiting the sick and dying in local area hospitals.

“Dr. Brutus,” as he was so fondly called by local hospital staff, continued his work to the end – even after he was diagnosed with gastric lymphoma. He fought hard to maintain his relationships with people, struggling to do so as the last two and

The Gress Mountain Ranch, a large- and small-animal rescue, is always in need of volunteers to help with the care of the animals and the environment. If you would like to make a contribution to celebrate Brutus’ life, please send to:

The Gress Mountain Ranch
3264 Highland Road
Orefield, PA. 18069-2606

To arrange a community-based volunteering schedule, please call 610-398-2122.

– Kathryn Gress



Above and **beyond**