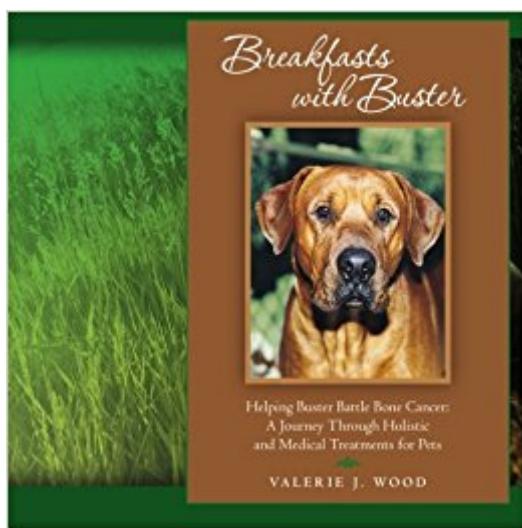


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Breakfasts With Buster: Helping Buster Battle Bone Cancer: A Journey Through Holistic And Medical Treatments For Pets



Synopsis

Breakfasts with Buster is an incredibly special memoir of how author Valerie J. Wood and her husband helped their dog, Buster B. Brown, battle bone cancer. Whether or not you're a dog lover, this tremendous tale shows the difference that faith, love, and perseverance make. It is a story of sorrow and triumph, it is a diary of a journey that immortalizes the courage their big brown boy had in the face of adversity. Part memoir, part animal cancer treatment guide, in four chapters, the author shares Buster's entire life and what it took to keep him going after the grim diagnosis. From making dramatic changes in Buster's diet to acupuncture and the use of Omega-3 oils, Wood was able to help Buster beat the odds for almost a year. It was a very long year, but also a very special one. As Buster battled bone cancer, he ended up teaching his masters a few more lessons, lessons that are immeasurably sweet and absolutely unforgettable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Valerie J. Wood is a writer/graphic design publication artist. Author of sports-fiction novel, Enforcer, and senior auto racing correspondent for www.femmefan.com. Valerie is particularly interested in holistic medicine, pet care, and animal rights. For over 15 years she and her husband bred and showed Abyssinians, American Shorthairs, and other breeds of cats, as well as Dobermans and horses. Currently, she is working on a new novel as well as some design projects.

I really appreciated Valerie sharing her experience though what was a difficult time. I have 2 dogs and can identify with the bond that they felt and what a huge loss it was. I thought it was very

touching and I appreciated the advice as I my oldest dog is having some issues and can hopefully benefit.

Was an enjoyable read. Unfortunately we lost our 4 year old in 4 weeks after diagnosis to bone cancer.

For those who love dogs, and totally commit to their pets through thick and thin, this book is a loving homage to a very special and handsome fellow: Buster B. Brown. Diagnosed with bone cancer at the age of 10, and given only two months to live, his owners, author Valerie J. Wood and her husband, Woody, go all out to extend his life while at the same time eliminating, or at least lessening, the pain. We get to meet Buster in his puppyhood, and the cover of the book contains a stunning photo of him. One of the beauties of the book is the excellent and moving photographs of Buster, as well as Baron, his canine companion who is two years older, and who dies a sudden and early death; Bruzzy, an Abyssinian close friend of Buster's; two royal-looking Abyssinians the family adopted towards the end of Buster's life, and even a photograph of the most attractive railroad train I've ever seen - black with a red design - which runs through the small town where they all live in Maryland, the whistle of which would cause Buster to melodiously sing. The photographs were taken by the author (who is a photojournalist, as well as a graphic design publication artist, as is evident in the lovely and unique designs on the front and back cover, and the book's interior). Each page is framed innovatively and decoratively, reminding one of the frame designs in Jan Brett's children's books, which create such a successful effect. Ms. Brett also has a background in design. The story is so moving I would advise keeping a hanky nearby. You may find yourself needing one at the story's end. I sure did. I'll really value this book as I have had two pets, a cat and a dog, who have both died of cancer. Had I had the information about holistic health possibilities at that time found in this book, perhaps I could have extended their lives as well. Should any of my present four dogs and seven cats contract that dreaded disease, this book with its abundant advice, including medications given and dietary changes made, will be invaluable. The author also wisely states that one should do one's own research since progress in new discoveries is made all the time. I want to express my admiration for the author and her husband for loving Buster one hundred percent, and going all out with their entire beings to ease and extend the last months of his life. Without their diligent care, effort and time, he wouldn't have had as many of them.

At first I thought this was a child's book, but no it is not. It is a tribute to a very special dog, Buster B

Brown, who brought joy to his human "parents" as well as companionship and comfort to his canine buddy Baron. It is a revelation of what cancer can do to a dog, and his "owners", and what humans who love their dog (or cat) can do to help facilitate a healing process or prolong and better the life of the animal. I have been involved personally in holistic methods of healing and nutrition since I was in my mid twenties, and this was extended to my pets (first goldfish, then cats), who also benefited from these modalities, so I found Ms. Wood's narratives quite interesting and illuminating. I applaud her for trying to find better nutrition than is found in most of the canned Grocery Store (and Pet Store) foods, and I also applaud her for trying Distance Healing (let's remember Christ did that to the Centurion's daughter, so it's not mumbo jumbo, but perhaps just another one of those miracles that DO bless our lives) and for finding a vet who used alternative as well as allopathic remedies. (As an aside, those with low budgets should not decry the Grocery Store foods - my coworker's cat who lived to be 23, ate nothing but one specific brand of canned cat food that is easily available at most grocery stores and convenience stores as well) The Resources and Bibliography section of the book is valuable for anyone who does understand and/or utilize alternative/holistic methods, and also for those who want to know more. Having lost my beloved soul-mate Princess (kitty) to a particularly nasty form of Cancer (and having been able to prolong her life and at one point remove the fluid from her lungs with a combo of Lasix alternated with Parsley, as well as other holistic modalities, all of which her - Allopathic but sympathetic- Vet was aware of) I understand your heartache, Valerie and I was overjoyed to know that Buster still sings along to the train once in a while. Truly, they do get to Heaven, yet they never forget us. I'm sure there was a reason why his front leg was not amputated, but I still wonder what it was. If, as Valerie says, he was fine in all other respects, why not amputate? Again, the decision was hers, and if she painstakingly researched and tried all those holistic modalities on him, I am sure she also painstakingly weighed the pros and cons of amputation as well. Since my book is a Proof copy, perhaps the Published Edition will discuss this further. I do wonder at the price. For the size of the book, I would think it should be less than \$20.00.

Breakfasts with Buster is a well intentioned book that doesn't quite hit the mark. It is very short (51 pages) and nearly half the pages are filled with pictures of Buster, famous quotes regarding a dog's love, or a combination thereof. Buster was the much loved dog of the author who sadly was stricken with bone cancer. The author decided to explore alternative treatment for her dog rather than the painful (and expensive) standard treatment of chemotherapy. More than once the author states..."I went on the internet and found..." making this book rather superfluous as a guide if one can get the

same information as her readily on the web. It is a heartfelt read, but not one for anyone looking for any serious information regarding the care of an animal with cancer.

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