

Do dogs sense when family members are dying? Read and decide. For three days, Timmy a Lhasa Apso amputee rarely left the side of Nana Irene's hospital bed when his 101-year-old grandma was on home hospice. This bed was higher than the regular mattress in her room where he usually positioned

himself on the floor next to her bed so he could watch over her each night.

To all four dogs in the home, this new bed was in their living room, and it made weird sounds similar to the clothes dryer. Furniture, rugs and their dog beds had been moved to make way for this monstrosity on wheels plus that odd oxygen machine beside it. Family visited all the time, but now they were clustered around the bed tending to Nana.

Yes, dogs do sense upheaval in their normal routine. But, to Timmy, these changes were more than that. Certain dogs are more in tune with their people, almost a pack mentality. Some scientists think dogs' acute sense of smell can detect changes that tell them a family member is dying.

It was time for Timmy to "step up to the plate," so to speak, with only three legs. After all, Timmy was a certified therapy dog in schools. Now, he felt compelled to assume a new role so he could provide comfort to Nana and his whole family. He rarely left his Nana Irene vigil.

#### About Our Team Timmy Dogs Who Lived with Nana Irene

**for Eight Years:** Timmy, our three-legged Lhasa and "ambassador" has befriended many children who've come to Last Hope Adoption Center in Wantagh. He's done his best to show them that a physical disability, even one as drastic as a missing limb, need not dampen your spirits, accomplishments or power to inspire others. He is among the happiest dogs on the planet.

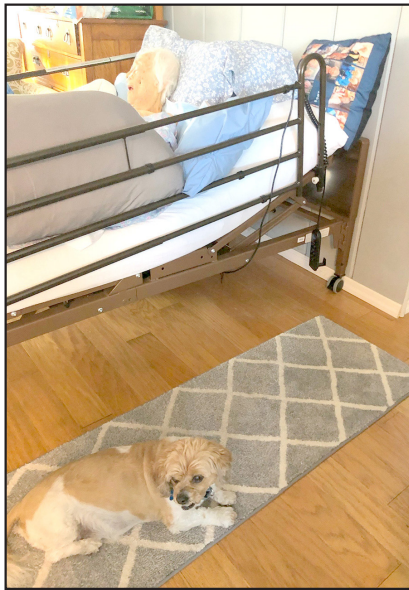
When scout and school groups visit Last Hope, we want them to leave with more than memories of an animal shelter tour. Hopefully, after hearing the story of overcoming injury or illness about each of the three Team Timmy pups belonging to Sue (the dogs' mom and Nana Irene's daughter), the young visitors are encouraged to view physical disabilities in a new light.

Sue introduces each group to Timmy and his sister dogs, Pammy Sue and Beverly. Timmy came into Babylon Shelter after being found on Sunrise Highway in Copiague with a broken leg that had healed itself in a backward position. According to specialists, amputation offered a better prognosis than surgery.

Meanwhile, the best thing to happen to Pammy Sue was to break her leg. She was a breeding Shih-tzu at a Kentucky puppy mill who must have caught her leg in her cage. It was badly fractured so the mill sent her to a Kentucky kill shelter, which then gave her to another shelter that was transport partners with Last Hope.

Sue took her foster Pammy to the Schwartzman Animal Medical Center in NYC where, via the AMC to the Rescue program, she had complex surgery, inserting metal rods to repair her leg. Puppy mill confinement left Pammy with emotional wounds too. Timmy taught her how to be a real dog.

Sue saw Beverly on Facebook as a tiny, matted moppet, fending for herself on Los Angeles streets. Once captured, it was discovered the moppet had constant tremors, not from fear. Her shakes were probably the result of surviving distemper. Beverly was not a candidate for adoption so Sue was determined to save her. Sue flew to California, adopted Beverly from a local rescuer



Timmy the 3-legged Lhasa keeps vigil by Nana Irene's hospice bed.



Nana Irene and little Beverly the moppet rescued off the streets of Los Angeles.

school and became a visiting nurse in Manhattan. On her 100th birthday, her grandchildren "interviewed" Nana Irene and were mesmerized by her vivid recall of details from the past.

But no one was aware of something special that surfaced in her condo two days before her passing. In January 1947, Irene was the only nurse featured in a three-page pictorial in Look Magazine about the importance but shortage of visiting nurses. Among the photos and her 45 patients per week, Irene visited new mothers to teach them how to bathe their infants, tended to an amputee, gave insulin shots to a blind, elderly couple, showed a class of expectant mothers how to make formula and the photo that will be forever stay in my mind- Irene at 25 years old comforted a dying woman on home hospice. Irene's life had gone full circle.

**Irene and our Team Timmy Dogs:** Before having Sue as her caretaker, Irene was never the dog lover her daughters and grandchildren are. But living with Team Timmy so long changed that. Irene would marvel at how cute each dog was.

Besides Timmy being her guardian, Beverly the Los Angeles moppet became her favorite. Tiny Beverly would sit on Irene's lap and stay with her. Eventually Beverly's tremors stopped completely. We attributed that to love being the cure-all, and to gravity because Beverly, who was used to eating rocks to feel full, doubled her healthy weight in her loving home. She went from

who pulled her from the city shelter and red-eyed home the same day.

**Circle of Life:** Irene Katches Polacek was born in 1921 in Czechoslovakia, and passed last Sunday at the age of 101. She lived with her daughter Sue and Sue's four dogs for the last eight years after complications from heart valve surgery deprived her brain of oxygen. Prior to the operation, Irene spoke at least three languages and did the New York Times crossword in pen.

Irene was a compassionate, independent woman, ahead of her time. She graduated from the Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing

and became a visiting nurse in Manhattan. On her 100th birthday, her grandchildren "interviewed" Nana Irene and were mesmerized by her vivid recall of details from the past.

But no one was aware of something special that surfaced in her condo two days before her passing. In January 1947, Irene was the only nurse featured in a three-page pictorial in Look Magazine about the importance but shortage of visiting nurses. Among the photos and her 45 patients per week, Irene visited new mothers to teach them how to bathe their infants, tended to an amputee, gave insulin shots to a blind, elderly couple, showed a class of expectant mothers how to make formula and the photo that will be forever stay in my mind- Irene at 25 years old comforted a dying woman on home hospice. Irene's life had gone full circle.

**Irene and our Team Timmy Dogs:** Before having Sue as her caretaker, Irene was never the dog lover her daughters and grandchildren are. But living with Team Timmy so long changed that. Irene would marvel at how cute each dog was.

Besides Timmy being her guardian, Beverly the Los Angeles moppet became her favorite. Tiny Beverly would sit on Irene's lap and stay with her. Eventually Beverly's tremors stopped completely. We attributed that to love being the cure-all, and to gravity because Beverly, who was used to eating rocks to feel full, doubled her healthy weight in her loving home. She went from



The first page of the 1947 Look Magazine article featuring Irene as a visiting nurse in NYC.

five pounds to ten.

We don't know how Timmy will be when the hospital bed is removed. Years ago, I placed a Babylon Shelter dog with a couple. The dog and husband became inseparable. When the man was diagnosed with an aggressive bone cancer, the dog never left his side. When the empty hospital bed was rolled away, the dog wailed.

The lives of the dogs and Irene intertwined. For eight years, every Brownie tour planned was scheduled around Irene's doctor appointments and day. Lunch was at noon; dinner at five-firm. Sue never left her mom for long. Irene was a visiting nurse and extraordinary caretaker for many people. Part of Irene's legacy is her daughter Sue was an extraordinary caretaker for one special lady.

## POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by the Suffolk County Police Department's Third Precinct and other police and law enforcement agencies:

### PETIT LARCENY

Islip: Suffolk County Police arrested Robert Hueber, 37, of 43 Walnut St., Central Islip and charged him with stealing \$350 from the cash register of a business at South Research Place April 24.

- Someone stole three charging cables, valued at \$40 from the 7-Eleven Store at 1375 Brentwood Road May 12.

- An assortment of items valued at \$885 was stolen from Home Depot on Sunrise Highway Service Road May 10.

- Brentwood: Someone stole a generator out of a truck that was parked on Yarnell Street May 11. The generator was valued at \$800.

### BURGLARY

Brentwood: Tiles, tools and piping were stolen from a home on Franklin Avenue May 11. The home was vacant at the time of the theft.

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Brentwood: Someone stole a catalytic converter from a car that was parked on Sherman Street May 12.

- A catalytic converter was stolen from a 2005 Honda that was parked on Ellery Street May 12.

### SCAM

North Bay Shore: An individual who had reported his/her dog missing received a home call from a subject who said he had the dog and would return it for cash. Police did not say how much the caller demanded but the dog owner suspected the scam and notified police on May 12.

### GRAND LARCENY

Bay Shore: Suffolk County Police arrested Cassandra Theroux, 32, of 14 Irving St., Central Islip on May 12 and charged her with the theft of a 2015 Volkswagen, which had been left running in the parking lot at 12 E. Suffolk Avenue May 12.

- A 2010 Nissan Rogue and a trailer were stolen from Brook Street May 12.

North Bay Shore: A 2012 Kawasaki motorcycle was stolen from Pine Aire Drive May 12. Police did not indicate the value of the motorcycle.

Central Islip: Two vehicles were stolen from W. Halley Lane May 12. Police said a 2003 Jeep Liberty and a 2003 Grand Cherokee were reported missing.

### BURGLARY

Bay Shore: Cash was stolen from an ATM at Stop and Fuel gasoline station at 1171 Sunrise Highway Service Road May 13.

### ROBBERY

East Islip: A lone male entered the 7-Eleven store at 197 E. Main Street May 13, displayed a firearm and fled the store with a case of Arizona iced tea.

### ARRESTS

Driving While Intoxicated or Impaired: Colleen Baumbusch, 47, of 19 Rolan Ct., Islip Terrace; Junyor Rene Ramirez, 39, of 26 Amfer Ct., Brentwood;

Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance With Intent to Sell: Lydell Mickens, 44, of 21 Harrison Ave., Bay Shore; Thomas L. Gundy III, 61, of 21 Harrison Ave., Bay Shore; Felix Rosado, 53, of 408 Bishop McGann Dr., Central Islip; Antoine DeMarc, 33, of 49 O'Neill Ave., Bay Shore;

Petit Larceny: Kelly Gregory, 52, of 1250 Minerva Ave., West Islip; Mahmoud Marei, 48, of 1901 Gleason Ave., the Bronx; Serena Ali, 31, of 1646 Manatuck Blvd., Bay Shore; Robert Hueber, 37, of 43 Walnut St., Central Islip;

Robbery: Johnathan Moore, 34, undomiciled;

Grand Larceny: Arthur Lambert, 52, of 1704 Manatuck Blvd., Bay Shore;

Assault: Josue Perez, 30, of 195 Hilltop Dr., Brentwood;

Menacing With a Weapon: Michael Turner, 48, of 12 Chestnut Ave., Amityville;

The charges against those listed are allegations and the cases are still pending in the courts. Individuals charged and whose names appear in this column may submit documentation to us at a later date that the charges have been dismissed or that they have been found innocent and we will include that information in this space in a timely manner.