



Just A Dog

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a
dog,"
or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog."

They don't understand the distance traveled, the time
spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with
"just a dog."

Many hours have passed and my only company was

"just a dog,"
but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about
by "just a dog,"
and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just
a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the
day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably
understand
phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a
promise."

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of
friendship, trust,
and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience
that make me a better person.

Because of "just a dog", I will rise early, take long walks
and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an
embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future,
the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the
moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts
my thoughts away
from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not
"just a dog",
but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me
from being
"just a man or woman."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog"
just smile...
because they "just don't understand."

by Richard Biby

Tulsa, Oklahoma
Contributing Editor VHD

From "The Versatile Hunting Dog"
NAVHDA's Magazine
February 2006



Music by Margi Harrell