



## 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  
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