



Our friend Ron Schumacher with grandson Buzzy.

*The Beckners wish you
good Health, Peace & Love,
the Best Blessings
on Earth!*

We hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits this 2007 holiday season.

Brian's mom, Jeanne, at age 86, is doing amazingly well. She lives at home in Grand Junction, CO, with her big cat, Tom; mows her lawn; walks a mile a day; drives to church, bridge, quilting club, and every other daytime activity. She's very special. We are lucky she is healthy and such a sweetie! Brian's younger brother Charlie is a law officer in Ridgeway, CO.

Miss Sophie, age seven and a half, has been with us for a year now, and we have grown to love each other more each day. She is a natural "hunter," giving voice to blood curdling screams when she sees a squirrel! She scans trees for squirrels and nearly climbs trees for them! She even pulled a mole out of the ground three feet from our front door! In September, she earned her Junior Earthdog Title and is now "Ch. Rose Gate Sophie Tucker, JE" Her next titles to earn: Senior Earthdog and Field Champion.



Sweet Edgar, age eleven and a half, is doing well. Mary Anne Wakelin photographed him in June when she became my first collector living in Australia. Then, in November, surprise of surprises, Dr. Sandy Bye, a veterinarian living in Hilton, South Africa, ordered two miniature pieces! I am honored to be collected now on six continents! *Thank you!*

In July, Brian and I drove to Mansfield, OH, for the Mid-Ohio AMA Superbike races and the Ducati Concours d'Elegance. As a result of this trip, Brian tore down one of his Ducatis and is in the process of

rebuilding it to make it competition ready for next summer's Ducati beauty contest.

Brian started the Ducati project while I was working between Scottsdale for American Women Artists, and Colorado, overseeing my finish work. I was working away from home for waaaaay too long -- nearly a month! I had consolidated two trips into one long one. I'll think twice before I do that again.

Will all the king's horses and all the king's men be able to put Humpty Dumpty back together again?



Tune in next year!



Weldon B Long

Oct. 31, 1926 - Sept. 22, 2007

On a sad note, my friend and dachshund anatomy mentor, Weldon B Long, passed away in September. He was a sweetheart and is deeply missed by all. Many friends, canine and human, surely greeted him when he crossed the bridge. Learn more about Weldon on my site.

January and February will find us in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Brian will take a Spanish classes and bridge lessons, and I will create small sculptures in wax, as it is so much easier to travel with than clay. In April, we will drive to Dallas for the Dachshund Club of America National Specialty. And, next summer, I will create a commissioned bronze of another breed of dog.

All good wishes for a wonderful 2008!

Please, keep in touch!

Brian & Joy

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Photos: Sophie, Humpty Dumpty, and The Crate by Brian; Weldon by Downey;
Ron & Buzzy photo thanks to daughter-in-law, Julie Schumacher, Buzzy's Mother.