

## 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 *just* 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 makes me a better person. Because of *just a dog* I will rise up earlier, take long walks and look longingly at 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 worries of the day.

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

So the next time you hear the phrase "*just a dog*"-

*just* smile, because *they just don't understand*.

(Anonymous)