



Van Gogh 2000-2010



Sometimes you luck into a special animal...one who exceeds the definition of “pet” and becomes a beloved companion. For Phil Rovner, Van Gogh was just such a dog. A Westie mix, Van was pure white, with bright eyes and an active tail, but what set him apart was his single ear. The other had been chewed off by his mother when he was still a tiny pup...but the loss won him his artistic moniker.

Van loved people and became the Rovner mascot, accompanying Phil to work every day. He loved a road trip, but when he couldn't come along, he would wait by the window until Phil came home. A game of “fetch” would often ensue, until Van got tired, dropped the ball under the table and rewarded his own good sportsmanship with a mouthful of kibble which he'd bring to Phil...but would not share. When it was time for a walk, Van strictly enforced a no-squirrel zone, running ahead to clear them from the path while always glancing back and keeping an eye on Phil. After a long day of working hard and playing hard, Van would snuggle up next to Phil in bed, ready to recharge his batteries for the next day's adventures.

To say that Van will be missed is an understatement. He was intelligent and engaging, playful and energetic. He was Phil's buddy, and had he worn shoes, they'd be tough shoes to fill. He may not have been as famous as Vincent, but *this* Van Gogh was a master at the art of friendship. And sometimes that's enough.