

## Chalupa Memorial Tailgate 9-24-2022

Chalupa was born on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. His last day was May 10, 2022. He lived 6,520 days or 17 years, 10 months, 7 days. He was a nice little dog.

He was a constant companion. He was perfect for me. He liked to do what I did and he went almost everywhere with me.

He is a very quiet and calm Chihuahua and loves people, parties and babies. People greeted him first and me second.

I would often get told that he was a chick magnet. Yes, girls like him, but he would often attract comments and attention from all people, young and old, male and female. You couldn't walk him and be in a bad mood (not that I was very often), because he would just bring a smile to people's faces.

I could often just take him somewhere that I'd never been before and just drop him down and he'd stay nearby.

He wasn't a one-person dog, like a lot of Chihuahuas. He had no problem being with other people and wasn't protective of me. Although, he did like to know where I was.

It felt like he was almost 18 years old for forever. People were always amazed by how old he was when I told them. They'd say something like "look at the puppy" and I'd reply with "Can you believe that he's almost 18?"

### Tailgating

Penn State Football was part of his (and my) identity. He was our tailgate mascot and I tried to bring him to as many games as I could, weather permitting. It just seems crazy to me that I took him to some of the games that I did, but we were both a lot younger. We didn't go to as many games at the beginning, because we lived farther away from Penn State.

He was only 4.5 months old for his first tailgate was November 20, 2004 for MSU. This was DDT3, back then, we were still just tailgating out of the pickup trucks and crashing on people's couches.

This tailgate was at the end of the "dark years" and despite it being cold and rainy, he spent most of the day in girls' shirts. This would be a recurring theme for him for the rest of his life. He was well behaved all day, except when he peed on Maddy at the end of the day. Sorry, Maddy.

His last tailgate was in 2021 for Rutgers. Normally, I wouldn't take him to the last game of the season, but we stayed at Suz's house. He was warm and dry all day. We opted not to take him to Blue-White 2022, because our neighbors were going and bringing their aggressive Akita.

### The dog sling

A key tailgating item of his was the dog sling that was always in his dog bag. I'm not even sure where or when I got it (Mom, maybe?) but when we were tailgating he usually wanted to be with me but I still wanted to be able to eat and drink. The dog sling was our solution and it kept him close to me (inside

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my jacket during colder weather) and fully supported, but allowed me to have use of both hands. If I was holding him under just 1 arm, I always worried about squeezing him too hard.

Some of his other memorable highlights:

- He and Suzanne Peters got a picture in the York Dispatch newspaper on April 23, 2005
- Playing fetch with him in the grass on the side of the road while waiting to get into the lots in the morning.
- I learned not to feed him people food on game day because so many other people would feed him. He got sick from eating too much during Blue-White 2005.
- I was always worried about him eating chicken bones that were thrown on the ground back when we tailgated in the grass. Not everyone in the lots picked up after themselves. He never had a problem.
- The time only time he wandered off in the RV lot, I got a call from the next RV over from me.
- Who got to hold him in the group picture?
- Taking a nap with Larry or Sitting with Carol or Marjea
- He got heat stroke during blue/white 2007. It was a really sunny day and he spent a lot of time on the folded up top of the Convertible. He got dunked in a cooler to cool off.
- He was with me for one of my favorite tailgates: Kent State 2010. I showed up with just him, a flask and a jersey and had the time of my life. Folks were saying hi to him the following week that I have no memory of meeting.
- Sitting on the stacks of beer: In our younger days, we'd buy a bunch of cases of beer and stack them up for a photo opportunity. I'd sit him on top as a guard dog.
- When it was cooler, he spent all kinds of time stuffed into girls' shirts. Jeremy also recreated this photo for Homecoming-ween.
- He helped me to be selected as CDT fan of the game for Temple 2010. We re-created the classic Heisman photo with him as the football. We got our picture in the Centre Daily Times.
- Jeremy, Chalupa and I hiked Mt. Nittany on the sunny Sunday after the Iowa game in 2011. Jeremy did the hike in flip flops and Chalupa walked almost all of the time except for the few times I picked him up when another dog passed us. I often used this as example of how easy that the hike was. He was hard to see in the photos from the overlook because of the shadows, but he was there.
- The time he curled on Jessi's belly at the Sleep Inn: During the years after we stopped sleeping on friends' couches and before we got the RVs, we stayed at the Sleep Inn north of campus. She woke up with something warm on her stomach and was alarmed until she figured out that he had burrowed under the covers after she'd gone to sleep.
- One of the most memorable games that he was at was the Illinois game in 2011. I took Jen Bohland with me to the RV lot and we were tailgating the lot down by the baseball stadium. It

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snowed 4 inches on Saturday, and I apparently planned to take my Mexican dog with me for the entire day. This ended up being JoePA's last game. oct 29, 2011 (photos on PC)

- A few months later, I took him with me to the JoePa memorial for my 24 hours in State College. We walked around town and the stadium to see all tributes to Joe, since I couldn't get off of work to make the funeral itself.
- For the "At Pitt" tailgate in 2016, he just got to ride on the boat on the way to Pittsburgh, since we'd been gone too long. My mom watched him for the rest of the weekend. You can see him in the time lapse video that I made of the trip. Maddy recently sent me a photo of him on the stern of the boat and you could see that he was still likely it.
- Besides Penn State, he also got to attend two Pup nights at PNC park twice for Pirates games. The first was June 2010 and the second was Aug 16, 2011. You had to buy a special ticket and had to enter via Federal Street and take the elevator up to the section just below the scoreboard. The dogs were only allow in that section, but you could leave section without him. On the concourse, there were water bowls everywhere and a large area covered in wood chips that the dogs could use to go to the bathroom. All different kinds of dogs there and I didn't put him down much for fear of other dogs bothering him. We spent most of our time in the seats.

### Away games

Chad and I took him along on quite a few away games trips:

- Ohio State University twice for tailgating. Oct, 26, 2013 and Nov 13, 2010
- FedEx Field 2010: I cut the ears off of the pig roast for him. He chased all of the seagulls out of the parking lot on Sunday morning
- Virginia 2012
- Michigan: 2014
- (Apparently, we didn't go to an away game in 2015)
- Purdue: 2016 with Andy, his Girlfriend, and their Cat
- MSU: 2017 Rain delay game
- Indiana 2018 with Cari and Eric by the baseball field

I didn't take him with us to Maryland in 2019, because I knew that we'd be away from the RV for more than 8 hours for the game. There were no game in 2020 and we didn't take him to Wisconsin in 2021 because I just thought it'd be a lot of time in the truck and I wasn't sure how long we'd be away from the RV. I'm kind of sad that I didn't because it would have been another state or two on his list.