

Personal Reflections

Elan... In Thanksgiving Submitted by Rowan Emrys, Bronze Director, CO



EMINENT ELAN entered this world on March 23, 2000. Prancing and dancing, his open heart led him right up to all people in spite of his mother's efforts to warn him away from strangers. In Elan's world, no one was a stranger. He was the epitome of almost

forty years of breeding and in his excellence he named himself: classy and with flair.

With his incredible loving sensitivity, we knew he needed a very special partner with whom to share his life. In the fall of 2002, Elan discovered the woman of his dreams and Sarah found the colt of her dreams. His eyes never left hers as they played Natural Horsemanship games together and went on walks together and simply "were" together. When Sarah, an Equine Science Major at CSU, went home for the summer, of course Elan went with her to learn to become a mountain horse. After living only on the flats, it was quite an adventure for him to discover that ground could go up and down and that such things as rocks existed! And Elan and Sarah went on their first gentle "rides" together as she climbed on his tall, broad, ever-trusting back.

In anticipation of her senior year at school, Sarah brought Elan back to this, his birthplace, on Wednesday, August 20th and on Wednesday, September 3rd, she came to our door in hysterics saying Elan was stumbling about in his paddock. It was West Nile Virus and he had a virulent case of it with already very advanced ataxia. She placed a call to a vet who used a B-vitamin paste for treatment rather than the more popular steroids, which he said in his experience, seemed to work for about 2 days and then the horse would die. We also immediately placed him on the same **DYNAMITE**[®] protocol which had proved successful so many other times. Because of Elan's hardy breeding, because both sire and dam were **DYNAMITE**[®] horses, and because of his exuberant **DYNAMITE**[®] health with never a chemical in his body, we felt confident that we would

have a successful outcome. And we did, although our definition of success has been expanded and our hubris has been humbled.

For 15 hours we watched this valiant colt fight and watched his aura ebb. Finally at 7 a.m. Thursday morning, Elan made the decision to go on and his aura shone bright white. We called a lovely, kind vet for assistance to help Elan on his way.

So why did this magnificent, **DYNAMITE**[®]-all-the-way colt succumb? As Jim has stated so frequently, health, or the lack of it, really consists of three parts: "15% Environmental Factors; 20% Nutritional Factors; 65% Metaphysical Factors." We believe that it is within this last category where we will find possible "reasons" for Elan's departure. It is within this category that we can understand his numerous gifts to us.

We thank Elan for the opportunity to expand our awareness that our concepts of success and perfection may mean different things to our souls and to our personas.

We thank him for allowing us to deeply understand the need to honor and respect for each individual being's personal journey.

We thank him for reminding us to take joy in the moment and to live this ephemeral life fully each of those moments.

We thank him for his presence in our lives and his showing us just how trusting, kind and open-hearted an equine companion can be.

We thank him for bringing dear Sarah into our lives, hopefully for a very long time.

Sara's mom, a **DYNAMITE**[®] downline, beautifully reminded us of an Indian saying: "The soul would have no rainbows if the eye had no tears." We thank Elan for a thousand rainbows.

Namaste,

Rowan Emrys



[the photos are of Elan as a yearling]