Friday, February 01, 2013 c:/outlk13, 32wc02

**Euthanasia.**

 Hi all,

 (If you have never had an intimate, long-term relationship with a pet animal, you might find it difficult to relate to the analogy we present here, … however..)

 We have given the subject of this letter much thought since the passing of our beloved Golden Bailey this past February.

Maybe some 4 years ago or so there was a story in the Ottawa paper about a man suffering in last stages of ALS. No chance of a cure, miserable days, living alone by choice, almost immobile, of no use to himself and a burden to everybody else, … he just wanted it ended.. He researched ways and means, selected one and set it all up in his home. For fear they would be prosecuted, he kept telling all family that no one could help or be any kind of a party to his actions. On the night he had chosen for his demise he and family went to his favorite restaurant and had a wonderful dinner. (Was a Red Lobster I think.) After eating he was driven back to his home, said goodbye, got out of the car and made his way into his house all by himself. What a sad scene. How hard it must have been for family to see him, alive for the last time, go inside, shut & lock the door, … and just drive off.

 Bailey fared much better. Clean hospital environment, comfortable room, professional help and in company of the two people she loved most. It was safe, serene, & beautiful. Dogs may not talk, but they have the most expressive eyes a person may ever encounter. When they look at you and those eyes say, *“I’m miserable, … do something*”, you are very glad you’ve the option to comply in a safe, secure, dignified manner..

 Entering our late eighties, that’s all we want to have available to us,. the option. The option to end it all in a safe, serene way. Hopefully, we would never have to exercise same. Dying in one’s sleep after a completely normal day would seem the ideal way to depart. Lucille and Ken have both specified they do not want to be placed on life sustaining equipment. A ‘body’ being kept alive when all it wants to do is die, is not for us. But hark, … be not concerned that we muse this way, …we are presently in good health as old folks go, very much looking forward to tomorrows and to 2013.

 Your hale & hearty octogenarians,

 Lucille & Ken.

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