



Mayor Stubbs; 1997-2017

We knew Stubbs before he really knew us. Never did we imagine that the Mayor of Talkeetna would become our new pet and best friend. Just over 2 ½ years ago, we purchased Nagley's Store and West Rib Pub & Grill and part of the contract was that Stubbs would stay with the store. We couldn't have been happier. The girls were ecstatic that they finally got a friend that could sleep in their beds and romp around the house with.

We were "warned" of all the publicity that Stubbs would bring to Nagley's Store, West Rib Pub & Grill and to Talkeetna. No one could imagine the notoriety that Stubbs had. Over 75% of visitors ask "Where's the Mayor?" or come in with this statement "I have an appointment with the Mayor." I think we heard those two statements over 100 times a day during our first year.

In 2015, Stubbs was still in the store often, but not daily. He found that he appreciated the quiet, out of the limelight family life that we provided at home. We made regular vet visits and started Stubbs on a few different foods and medicines that were better suited for his age; the "old cat" food at the store is for cats that are 12+, but that wasn't good enough for Stubbs.

In 2016, he came out even less, but would still hop up on the bar and have his margarita glass (Thanks to Rich Crain) of water and catnip. He'd still meow at the locals and let everyone know that he was there. He was fond of the winters as he would get all the attention he needed from the locals and then he'd hop in bed with the kids and be as happy as a clam. There were many days that the kids would take him out across the road to the park or just carry him around the store until he wanted to go home. I don't know how many people have pictures of one of the girls holding him; probably thousands. He continued receiving special food, saline and extra vitamins to make sure he could keep up; still visiting the vet and making sure he was healthy.

Summer of 2016 was a game changer for Stubbs. This was the first time he was ever accepting to new kittens in the house. We welcomed Aurora and Denali into the house in August and hoped that Stubbs would not have a fit. After a day or two of him giving them the eye and a little growl here and there; they became best friends. He got some spunk back playing with kittens. He would even swat at them as they passed and snuggle in his bed with them at night. He found himself sharing a bed with more than just the kids; he then had two kittens that wanted to be right by his side all the time. He was starting to get older and wasn't wanting to go up the stairs, so we made him a kitty walk along the wall so he could still go up and make his rounds while Aurora and Denali traipsed up and down the stairs so fast.

After the summer of 2016, Stubbs found himself not wanting to go to the store often. He would go over, make his simple rounds and then he'd meow all the way back to the house. He wanted to make sure that we heard him and followed so we could let him back in. We started letting Aurora and Denali out over at the store to see how they would do with people. Amazingly, Denali has the exact personality as Stubbs. He loves the attention, he's like a little puppy when he's around people. Aurora on the other hand is a typical cat and she only wants to be looked at and maybe petted if it's on her terms. We couldn't have asked for a better understudy than Denali – he really has followed in Stubbs' pawprints in just about everything. Stubbs continued to sleep in the kids' bed and roam the house, going up and down the stairs or his kitty walk so he could make his rounds with all his "people". He really stopped wanting to leave the house in the winter between 2016 and 2017. A visitor would come and ask for Stubbs and if one of the kids was around and heard, they were off to the house to pick him up and come bring him over for a visit.

In 2017, Stubbs did a couple TV shows and more than a handful of interviews, but was not fond of the camera and all the people; it had gotten to be too much for him. He made it to the store a handful of times this summer and was completely bombarded by people passing him back and forth to take selfies. Denali has been soaking up the attention and will pose with anyone; or just let you carry him around like a baby. The last time Stubbs was in the store; he got to snuggle with the employees and relax after a good long days' work. The night of July 20th, we checked on the cats before bed and Stubbs was snuggled up with Aurora in the bed next to his. Stubbs went to bed as usual and before we awoke on the morning of July 21st, he was already in heaven.

Stubbs lived for 20 years and 3 months. He was a trooper until the very last day of his life; meowing at us throughout the day to pet him or to come sit on the bed with him and let him snuggle and purr for hours in our lap. Thank you, Stubbs, for coming into our lives for the past 31 months; you are a remarkable cat and we will dearly miss you. We loved the time we were allowed to spend with you.

To all the folks who see this; please respect our family, employees and all the people of Talkeetna in this sad time. Please do not call the store or restaurant. If you would like to send a card or a letter, please address it to:

Mayor Stubbs/Nagley's Store
PO Box 413
Talkeetna, AK 99676

All cards will be put into a scrapbook/memory book and displayed at Nagley's Store. We will try to make a memory book with as many pictures as possible. If you have pictures of Stubbs that you'd like to include in this book – please email them to Info@NagleysStore.com.

Moving forward, Denali truly has some really big paws to fill in for with his new duties and responsibilities.

The Spone Family