

## London Bridge is Down\*

*"I see your fear and it's big. I also see your courage and it's bigger.  
We can do hard things." - Glennon Doyle*

Padmé Amidala Skywalker, Queen of the Naboo passed away on March 13, 2024, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was born as "Dutchess", a German Shepherd Dog on November 9, 2010, to Dam Libby von Haus Mills and Sire Zachariah Blue Guardian Angel in Muncie, Indiana as recorded in the pedigree on February 28, 2011, by the American Kennel Club. She was almost 13.5 years old an equivalent of 100 human years.



Padmé was also known as Pad (pronounced Pod), Girl, Girly, Girly Girl, Schäf, Schäferhund, Padmeister, Queen Padmé, Princess Amidala, Baby, Sister, and "Our Girl".

Padmé shared a birthday with Dave and was a Christmas present to Sandra from Dave. She was Sandra's first dog, but it was Padmé who picked us as her human companions. She carefully and sometimes quite bluntly balanced royal regalness and entitlement with a sense of duty, order and confidence combined with the warmest and biggest heart. Her pack pecking order was Momma #1, Padmé #2, Dave #3 and brother Hansi #4. However, her ordering was not linear, there being a large performance gap between the #2 and #3 spots in her view.

One of her first major life events was the voyage from Indiana to Colorado via Continental Flight 799 on January 7, 2011, at just 8 weeks old. With the supreme confidence demonstrated throughout her life she made the trip in a crate with a stop-over in Houston, Texas. She was greeted by the cargo personnel at the Denver International Airport, who were immediately struck by her beauty and friendliness declaring her one of the top 10 most beautiful puppies they had ever seen. That's quite a compliment given they handled puppies almost every day.

From the moment Padmé entered our lives, she brought with her an air of elegance, intelligence and grace that was simply unparalleled. With every wag of her tail and every dignified bark and head tilt, she reminded us she was no ordinary dog – she was the Queen.

Padmé was a fast learner. At six months she would stand on her back legs balancing herself with a paw on the wall while using her other front foot to open the door by pushing the handle down. She quickly graduated from Puppy Kindergarten at the Lucky Dog Resort & Training School in Colorado Springs as well as graduating from Level 3 dog training, only to be eventually expelled due to bossing behavior. A trait she extended to all dogs and humans until her last day. This expulsion was only one of many signs that professional help was needed. That's how Dani Corry came into our lives as a true blessing. Dani not only owned two 5-year-old German Shepherds, Ellie and Hagan at the time but also was an accomplished dog trainer who picked her up twice a week to spend the day with the Corry pack and

learn many needed skills. Most importantly she taught us how to be confident leaders of our dog, a role that Padmé never quite fully accepted. At the Corry home she also learned patience and gentle behavior around small children thanks to Lucas Corry, a trait that she also lovingly showed to godchildren Cameron and Brayden, and grandchildren Eli and Holland, whom she loved very much just like their mother Kara and eventually Patrick after some initial concern about a “kiss on the porch situation”. Whenever Kara was coming over Padmé would wait and look out the front window.

Padmé loved the recent Winter adventures with Elke, Dirk, and Markus in Pagosa Springs in December 2022 and one of her highlights was the park visit at Carroll Park in Alamosa and City Park in La Veta on December 27, 2023, and January 1, 2024, with Aunt Terry. Another huge highlight of her life included two teenager exchange students Noah and Nica. That meant more herding and protection responsibilities, which was right up her alley.

Her professional accomplishments include:

- Assistant Manager to Ansel and James Smith for the Smith Dog Lodge in Monument, Colorado,
- Lifeguard at Lake Powell and Navajo,
- Paddle board and swim trainer at Lake Pueblo and Williams Creek Reservoir,
- Ring Bearer in Moab, Utah, and
- Arkansas River Patrol Officer in Buena Vista.

Additionally, she had employments as

- Mail Officer in Colorado Springs,
- Solar Panel Technician in Salida, Colorado as well as
- Influencer sponsorships from the Parks & Recreation and Visitor Center in multiple cities, RexSpecs dog lenses, Big Barker dog beds, Kyon veterinary surgical equipment and Colorado Canine Orthopedics.

All these roles were in addition to being a trusted companion, a steadfast protector, and a source of endless love and joy.

Padmé had a way of commanding attention wherever she went. She was a canine celebrity. She used to take Sandra and her closest friends Dawn and Amarilda on a “lunch run” to Garden of the Gods Park starting at Keysight’s West company parking lot. Employees driving by during lunch rolled down their windows and started waving and greeting her *“Hi Padmé, How are you doing?”*, leaving Sandra feeling slightly ignored. With her head held high she exuded an aura of majesty that was impossible to ignore. And yet, beneath her royal exterior, beat the heart of a true friend and confidant.

Her travel adventures were plentiful with her favorites being roaming in Pagosa Springs, swimming with Sue, Val, Linda, Daniela, Martina, Pam, Vikki, and Pam in Lake Powell, Hiking with AiLee, and Don, exploring nature with Kerri and Kona or just walking across the street for a neighborly visit with Skip and Janey and a bark at Nikki. She also watched Chris Bonck a couple of times while Dave and Sandra went on vacation.

One of the highlights of her day was the teeth cleaning by Dave with vanilla mint flavored toothpaste. Padmé was the only dog known at the veterinary clinic that got her teeth flossed and never needed a professional veterinary laser teeth treatment in her life. Dave also lovingly hand fed her in her last few

weeks while placing a clean towel as a tablecloth across her front legs – a service she thoroughly enjoyed.

Her celebrity status peaked by being the first dog ever who visited 75 different parks in the state of Colorado. Many friends came out for her park visits including Vicki, Dawn, Michele, the Grumbines, Mayos, and the Jeters. The 75<sup>th</sup> visit with Dawn and Val on a beautiful warm and sunny day in downtown Colorado Springs as recent as Friday, March 1, 2024, turned into an adrenaline rush for both Sandra and Padmé.

She saved her biggest love for her brother Hansi. She was a tough coach to him but, whenever they were apart for a few hours the reunion looked as if years went by. Only one living being was allowed to touch her longer than 30 seconds and that was Hansi.

She understood the love and devotion her family members provided. Whether it was helping her through double hip surgery in 2017, the 2:00AM “Parent taxis” to take her outside in her full body harness during her last days, or the big sloppy kisses from brother.

While many had the pleasure to enjoy her company, Sandra cherishes her many supporters and friends that followed her journey over social media as far away as Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, California, Texas, Germany, the UK, Brazil, Malaysia, India, and Japan. THANK YOU.

As we say goodbye to Padmé, her passing undoubtedly presenting emotional collapse, despair and a seismic shift in our lives, let us not dwell on the sadness, but instead, let us celebrate the incredible life she lived and the countless memories and smiles she leaves behind. Though she may no longer be by our side, her legacy and pawprints will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

So, here's to you, Padmé Amidala Skywalker Cipriani, our noble German Shepherd, our girl, and beloved Queen. May you rest in peace knowing that you will forever hold a special place in our hearts. Farewell, sweet Padmé. Until we meet again across the rainbow bridge.

*“Lead with Confidence.” – Padmé Cipriani*

*Sandra, Dave, and Hans Olo*

\* Code phrase used to signify the death of a reigning monarch.

Photo by Stacy Carosa Photography

# Appendix

## Padmé's Vocabulary of 117 Words

### **Names**

Padmé, Pad, Girl, Girly, Girly Girl, Pup, Schäf, Schäferhund, Padmeister  
Hans, Boy, Momma, Daddy, Kara, Hansi Boy, Patrick, Eli, Holland, Mutter, Grandpa, Vincent, Dawn,  
Amarilda, Kerri, Kona, Mr. Smith, The Uncles, Lea, Hard worker, she, Dani, Ellie, Hagan, Nica, deer, Lady,  
Piglet, Lady Girl, wolf, Val

40

### **Cues**

Sit, lay, down, come, toter Hund, fertig, Share, upsit, stand, bettlüften, face cloth lüft, load, climb, good  
outside, good outside quick, Nummer eins, Nummer zwei, protect the house, protect the Hansi, work,  
mailbox, leave it, drop it, aus, find it, go home, wait for momma, wait, stay, good lay, over, auto step

32

### **Other**

Truck ride, Trail Boss adventure, together, zusammen, do the loop, beddy bed, brushy brush, teathy  
teeth, Pagosa, pretty, pretty girl, work, thank you, warming up my spotty, downstairs, hungry, sharing,  
share with daddy, Cabin, toy, swimming, toy, stairs, pool, special, mailbox, schwim vest

27

### **Food**

Treat, dinner, foody food, hungry, Hunger, chicken, cheese, kase, treaty-treat, food, frosty paws,  
breakfast, make it special

13

### **Toys**

Ball, rocky rock, sheepy sheep, pinky sheep, biggy sheep

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## Queen Padmé at a Neighborhood near You Park Log

Campaign City Parks	Start Date <b>December 31, 2021</b>	End Date <b>March 1, 2024</b>		
Park #	Park Name	City	When	Who
1	Golden Hills Park	Colorado Springs	December 31, 2021	Padmé, Momma
2	Jackson Park	Colorado Springs	January 8, 2022	Padmé, Momma
3	Piñon Valley Park	Colorado Springs	January 15, 2022	Padmé, Momma
4	Goose Gossage Park	Colorado Springs	January 29, 2022	Padmé, Momma
5	Mountain Shadows Park	Colorado Springs	February 5, 2022	Padmé, Momma
6	Erindale Park	Colorado Springs	February 12, 2022	Padmé, Momma
7	Oak Valley Ranch Park	Colorado Springs	February 20, 2022	Padmé, Momma
8	Bonforte Park	Colorado Springs	February 26, 2022	Padmé, Momma
9	Discovery Park	Colorado Springs	March 5, 2022	Padmé, Momma
10	Nancy Lewis Park	Colorado Springs	March 12, 2022	Padmé, Momma
11	Pike Park	Colorado Springs	March 19, 2022	Padmé, Momma
12	Dublin Park	Colorado Springs	March 26, 2022	Padmé, Momma
13	Sonderman Park	Colorado Springs	April 2, 2022	Padmé, Momma
14	Kathleen Neil Marriage Park	Colorado Springs	April 9, 2022	Padmé, Momma, Hansi

15	Fields Park	Manitou Springs	April 23, 2022	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
16	Marshall Sprague Park	Colorado Springs	April 30, 2022	Padmé, Momma
17	Garden Ranch Park	Colorado Springs	May 7, 2022	Padmé, Momma
18	Flanagan Park	Colorado Springs	May 14, 2022	Padmé, Momma
19	Thorndale Park	Colorado Springs	May 21, 2022	Padmé, Momma
20	George Fellows Park	Colorado Springs	June 18, 2022	Padmé, Momma
21	Wasson Park	Colorado Springs	July 30, 2022	Padmé, Momma
22	Bott Park	Colorado Springs	August 6, 2022	Padmé, Momma
23	Woodmen Valley Park	Colorado Springs	August 27, 2022	Padmé, Momma
24	Pine Cliff Park	Colorado Springs	September 4, 2022	Padmé, Momma
25	Garden of the Gods Park	Colorado Springs	October 8, 2022	Padmé, Momma
26	Acacia Park	Colorado Springs	October 22, 2022	Padmé, Momma
27	Ivywild Park	Colorado Springs	October 29, 2022	Padmé, Momma
28	Jenkins Park	Colorado Springs	November 5, 2022	Padmé, Momma
29	Gold Camp Park	Colorado Springs	November 12, 2022	Padmé, Momma
30	America the Beautiful Park	Colorado Springs	November 19, 2022	Padmé, Momma
31	Woodstone Park	Colorado Springs	December 10, 2022	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
32	Monument Valley Park	Colorado Springs	December 17, 2022	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
33	Rampart Park	Colorado Springs	January 7, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
34	Memorial Park	Colorado Springs	January 14, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
35	John Venezia Community Park	Colorado Springs	January 22, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi

36	Candleflower Park	Colorado Springs	February 4, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
37	Wagner Park	Colorado Springs	February 11, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
38	Ford Frick Park	Colorado Springs	February 18, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
39	Frontier Park	Colorado Springs	February 25, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
40	Dirty Woman Park	Monument, CO	March 4, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Dawn
41	Portal Park	Colorado Springs	March 11, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
42	Danville Park	Colorado Springs	March 26, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
43	Boulder Park	Colorado Springs	April 1, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
44	Homestead Park	Colorado Springs	April 8, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
45	Ute Valley Park	Colorado Springs	April 22, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
46	Bancroft Park	Colorado Springs	May 6, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
47	Village Green Park	Colorado Springs	May 20, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
48	Shooks Run Park	Colorado Springs	May 27, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
49	Broadmoor Valley Park	Colorado Springs	June 3, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
50	Panorama Park	Colorado Springs	June 24, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Daddy, Grumbine family, Michele Kelly, Vicky Thorson,
51	Town Park	Del Norte	July 1, 2023	Padmé, Momma
52	Lathrop State Park	Walsenburg	July 4, 2023	Padmé, Momma
53	Pikes Peak Greenway Trail	Colorado Springs	July 8, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
54	Cheyenne Meadows Dog Park	Colorado Springs	July 15, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
55	Broadmoor Bluffs Park	Colorado Springs	July 22, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi

56	Alamo Square Park	Colorado Springs	July 29, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
57	River Park	Buena Vista	August 3, 2023	Padmé, Momma
58	Buena Vista Boulder Garden	Buena Vista	August 4, 2023	Padmé, Momma
59	Wilson Ranch Park	Colorado Springs	August 6, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
60	Wild Rumpus Park	Colorado Springs	August 13, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Daddy, Kara, Patrick, Eli, Holland
61	Cottonwood Creek Park	Colorado Springs	August 12, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
62	Brown Memorial Park	South Fork	August 18, 2023	Padmé, Momma
63	Fiesta Park	Walsenburg	August 21, 2023	Padmé, Momma
64	Fountain Creek Regional Park	Colorado Springs	August 26, 2023	Padmé, Momma
65	Memorial Park	Woodland Park	September 29, 2023	Padmé, Momma
66	Chapman Park	Monte Vista	October 27, 2023	Padmé, Momma
67	Railroad Park	La Veta	October 30, 2023	Padmé, Momma
68	Cole Park	Alamosa	November 18, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
69	Skate Park	Walsenburg	November 22, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Hansi
70	Carroll Park	Alamosa	December 27, 2023	Padmé, Momma, Terry
71	City Park	La Veta	January 1, 2024	Padmé, Momma, Terry
72	Riparian Park	Alamosa	February 3, 2024	Padmé, Momma
73	Rickel Park	South Fork	February 5, 2024	Padmé, Momma
74	JJ Raigoza Park	Pueblo	February 5, 2024	Padmé, Momma
75	John "Prairie Dog" O'Byrne Park	Colorado Springs	March 1, 2024	Padmé, Momma, Dawn, Val