



## Stephanie Anne Chmiel

September 23, 1958 - November 2, 2024

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It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Stephanie Anne Chmiel, partner to Denise Patzsch for 34 years; oldest sister to Catherine Chmiel-Goetzinger (Kenneth Goetzinger), Carolyn Chmiel (Michael Harris), Gerri Chmiel (Mark Campbell) and Greg Chmiel; and coolest aunt ever to Sean Harris, Dylan Harris and Colin Campbell.

Also part of Steph's family were snakes, lizards, cats, dogs, birds, horses and donkeys. She always loved animals and would volunteer to foster school pets during long breaks in middle school and high school. One year she brought home a chinchilla for Christmas! This soon led to hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs of her own. Her love for animals led to her career as a vet, and this love extended to her Altavista Animal Hospital family where she cared for her patients for over 30 years, many of them from birth until they crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Gladys, Virginia had been Steph's home for the past 20 years, and she valued her time there with friends and family. Always a fan of nature, Steph and Denise found property with 5 acres, a stream and barn. Country living gave them space for gardening, horses and donkeys. Their favorite times together were spent trail riding and horse camping in the area.

Steph always had a book in her hand, a passion passed down from her mother during weekly treks to the public library. She was a member of the Great Books Club growing up and her love for reading continued into adulthood with her own local book club - Steph wanted to share her love of reading with others. Steph was also an adventurous cook and looked forward to trying new recipes and foods. She would rarely eat the same food twice.

A celebration of life will be held at Finch & Finch in Altavista from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. on Friday November 8, 2024.

Steph suggested that those wishing to make memorials consider the Friends of Campbell

County Animal Control Inc., 1400 Edley Place, Lynchburg VA 24502 or  
Harmony Rescue Inc., 5292 Browns Mill Road, Rustburg VA 24588.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Altavista  
809 Main St.  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Tribute Wall

KE

“ Stephanie and I would climb trees when we were young and use our newly purchased pocket knives to do some primitive carvings in the trees. She was my best friend and I am saddened to her of her passing.

Kathy (Kelsey) Eisenhour - June 18, 2025 at 12:31 AM

BP

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Knew Dr. Stephanie for about 15 years. She took excellent care of our pets and was top notch as a person. She will surely be missed.

Brenda Pulley - November 18, 2024 at 02:07 PM

NM

“ Steph had a wonderful wit, I have many fond memories from vet school when her narratives brought much needed levity.

Nancy Mauer - November 15, 2024 at 09:47 AM

  
Rebecca  
Verna

“ Steph and I met in veterinary school---VMRCVM Class of 1989. We were fast friends for those 4 years but lost touch over the years since, other than "catching up" through our Class Newsletter (which continues to this day, thanks to classmate Julie Holland). I know you will be missed terribly, Steph, by your dear family and co-workers, as well as thousands of animal patients. See you on the Other Side!!

Rebecca Verna - November 10, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SW

“ *Very sorry to hear about Dr. Chmiel. She was so good with my YorkiePoo, Poppy. She and the staff were always kind to us. She will be missed.*

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**susan wade** - November 08, 2024 at 05:37 PM

BN

“ *Bobby Nichols lit a candle in memory of Stephanie Chmiel*



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**Bobby Nichols** - November 07, 2024 at 07:05 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Stephanie Anne Chmiel.*



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November 05, 2024 at 10:11 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Stephanie Anne Chmiel.*

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November 05, 2024 at 10:11 PM

DR

“ *She took such wonderful care of our Puppy Izzy, while he was dealing with bladder stones and diabetes. Rest in peace and love*

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**Dottie Robertson** - November 05, 2024 at 09:31 PM

KS

“ *Kathy Shelton purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Stephanie Anne Chmiel.*



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**Kathy Shelton** - November 05, 2024 at 12:13 PM

BD

“ *She was one of a kind. I know we will miss her so much*

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**Billy & Diane Davis** - November 05, 2024 at 11:33 AM

AD

“ *Steph was a wonderfully kind person whom I enjoyed as a colleague for over 20 years. She will be missed by those who love her and by her profession. The veterinary community is diminished without her.*

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**Al Henry, DVM** - November 05, 2024 at 10:55 AM

PW

“ *Keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers. We knew her for years at Altavista Animal Hospital. They all were great with our pets over the years. Paula & Wayne Walden Jr.*



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**Paula Walden** - November 04, 2024 at 06:12 PM

BA

“ One of our favorite memories of her happened about 8 years ago when we brought in our cat, Thomas, for a checkup. He was a stray and when asked for his name, Dr. Chmiel, quite frankly stated that that couldn't be his name....since "he" was a calico!! So Thomas became Thomasina and we all had a good chuckle! We know many will miss her expert care.

Barbara - November 04, 2024 at 06:06 PM

PH

“ Peaks View Animal Hospital purchased the County Basket Blooms for the family of Stephanie Anne Chmiel.



Peaks View Animal Hospital - November 04, 2024 at 05:37 PM

JM

“ I'll miss Steph so much. What a wonderful friend she's been.

Julie Moore - November 04, 2024 at 05:24 PM

TB

“ Steph was a wonderful woman. Kind and fun to be around. Gone too soon. So sorry for your loss. °Prayers for comfort as you grieve. 🙏

TERRY BALASIC - November 04, 2024 at 04:52 PM

JR

“ *Jodi Robertson lit a candle in memory of Stephanie Anne Chmiel*



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**Jodi Robertson** - November 04, 2024 at 04:50 PM

JR

“ *Dr. Steph will be forever in our hearts. Our dogs loved her too. When Steph diagnosed Lucy with Cushing's she went above and beyond to coordinate care with Dr. Purnell in Charlottesville. She was there when both Brandi and Lucy went to Rainbow Bridge. Sadly, Barton left for the bridge without her but we are sure he was right there to greet Dr. Steph wagging his tail. We have lost a dear friend but heaven has a special angel to watch over Rainbow Bridge. We love you Dr. Steph.*

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**Jodi Robertson** - November 04, 2024 at 04:50 PM

AR

“ *Dr Steph always took such great care of our fur babies. Rainbow Bridge now has the best veterinarian and we have lost one of the biggest hearts I've ever known.*

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**Anthony Robertson** - November 04, 2024 at 04:48 PM

CW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Dr. Chmiel fondly for her kind care of my animals.*

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**cathy Waller** - November 04, 2024 at 04:47 PM

JS

“ *Julie Sowers lit a candle in memory of  
Stephanie Anne Chmiel*



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**Julie Sowers** - November 04, 2024 at 04:45 PM

CC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss.... Steph was an amazing friend. She  
was so kind and a great listener..... I will miss her so much!❤️*  
**Cathy Cook**



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**Cathy Cook** - November 04, 2024 at 04:33 PM