

timesunion.com

Man dies saving best friend

Cambridge resident struck by car chasing after his beloved dog

By BOB GARDINIER, Staff writer

Click byline for more stories by writer.

First published: Thursday, February 26, 2009

CAMBRIDGE — Carl Bodenstab often was seen driving around town with his eager companion, Babycakes, riding shotgun.

"He went everywhere with that dog," said Carl's uncle Orin Bodenstab. "It was like a mutt, but he loved that dog."

Carl Bodenstab, 43, died Tuesday in Albany Medical Center Hospital, six days after he was hit by a car while saving the 6-year-old dog from a similar fate.

Bodenstab was driving on Route 22 on Feb. 18 during a snow squall, lost control and went off the road, Washington County sheriff's deputies said. That caused another driver to swerve and also leave the road.

When Bodenstab got out of his car to check for damages, the dog jumped out, too. Bodenstab chased the dog into the road and was hit by a third car that had swerved to miss the dog.

"He just had a stroke about a month ago so he was still moving kind of slow," Orin Bodenstab said. "The driver was moving pretty fast because they told us the impact threw him about 50 feet."

Sheriff's Investigator Bruce Hamilton said no charges were filed against the driver.

Bodenstab, who was called "Fruit Loop" by his daughter, grew up on a farm in White Creek and, at the time of his death, worked for the New York Racing Association as a maintenance man at the Saratoga Race Course.

"He just loved to work around horses and around the barns," Orin said.

Orin Bodenstab said his nephew was a devoted River Rats and NASCAR fan and loved mowing lawns.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy, daughter, DeAnna, 18, and two stepsons, according to the Ackley & Ross Funeral Home and his youngest sister, Carla Bodenstab-Durovic.

The sister called her only brother and his dog inseparable, saying the black and white, medium size animal now sits at the end of the driveway waiting for him to come home.

"She really misses her daddy," Bodenstab-Durovic said.

Calling hours are Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Ackley & Ross Funeral Home, 73 W. Main St., Cambridge, with a service of remembrance at the funeral home at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"He was a kind man and his family will miss him," Orin said.

Staff writer Ryan Hutchins contributed to this report.