



Dana Denise Cole

September 17, 1962 - February 3, 2025

With profound sadness, yet with gratitude for the time we were blessed to have with her, we say goodbye to Dana Cole—a woman whose kindness knew no bounds, a friend to every living thing, and a light in the lives of all who knew her. Dana was born on September 17, 1962, in Orange County, California, to Dennis and Alice Cole. As a young girl, her family moved to Norco, CA, a place that perfectly suited her deep love for animals and the outdoors. Growing up in Norco, Dana thrived in the unique equestrian lifestyle of "Horsetown, USA." Her days were filled with riding, caring for animals, and developing the passion that would shape the rest of her life. She was not only a dedicated horse trainer but also an accomplished equestrian competitor. Dana spent years showing horses at the highest levels, earning numerous top awards and accolades for her exceptional skill and dedication. Her talent in the show ring was undeniable, and her horses reflected the love, care, and expertise she poured

into
them.

Dana shared a special bond with her brother, Brian Cole, who was not just her sibling

but also her lifelong friend. Through every adventure, he offered encouragement,

laughter, and unwavering support. She also deeply cherished her stepmother, Sue Cole,

whose kindness and guidance brought comfort and stability to their family.

Aunt Margo

was another pillar of love in Dana's life, always offering warmth, wisdom, and a listening

ear. Dana also shared a deep friendship with Paula, built on trust and laughter—a bond

that grew even stronger when Paula became her sister-in-law, turning their friendship

into a lifelong sisterhood. Together, they all created a loving and supportive environment

that nurtured Dana's generous spirit and deep compassion.

Dana was an exceptional student, graduating at the top of her high school class. She

was accepted into UC Davis with the goal of becoming a veterinarian, but her love for

hands-on work with animals ultimately led her to pursue a lifelong career in horse

training instead. Her skill and devotion to animals became the foundation of her

professional journey, and she dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the animals she

loved.

In 2003, Dana met the love of her life, John, and together they built a life filled

with shared passions, adventure, and unwavering devotion. From the moment they met, it was clear that they were soulmates—united not only by their love for each other but also by their deep connection to animals. Together, they spent years showing and breeding Lionhead rabbits, always working side by side to improve and develop the breed. Their journey was one of partnership in every sense, finding joy in the simplest moments—whether it was an evening spent with their animals, a shared dream pursued, or simply the comfort of knowing they had each other. John was not only Dana’s husband but her best friend, steadfast through every challenge she faced. When Dana endured a harrowing battle with H1N1 (Swine Flu) in 2009—spending over a year in the hospital, in a coma, and on life support—John never left her side. His unwavering love and support gave her the strength to fight through an arduous recovery, and in the years that followed, they faced every obstacle together. Even as health complications arose in later years, their love remained constant—an unbreakable bond built on resilience, faith, and the deep understanding that they were meant to walk this life hand in hand. Dana’s love for animals was matched only by her love for people. One day, a

young girl
named Charity Rodriguez showed up at her gate, eager to learn everything
she could
about horses. Dana welcomed her with open arms, and before long, Charity
became
more than a student—she became family. Dana fondly considered Charity her
adopted
daughter, thrilled to encourage her passion, teaching her not just about horses
but
about love, respect, and the deep responsibility that comes with caring for
animals. She
took great joy in knowing that Charity would one day pass that knowledge and
love on
to another, just as she had done throughout her own life.
For the past four years, Dana was blessed by Valorie, a skilled nursing
assistant who
became more than just a presence in her life—she became a cherished
friend. Valorie
witnessed Dana’s incredible strength and spirit firsthand, admiring her
resilience in the
face of life’s challenges. Through the toughest days, Dana remained full of
love, humor,
and an unshakable faith that inspired those around her. Valorie will always
remember
her as a woman of incredible warmth, someone who could brighten a room
with her
smile and make anyone feel like family.
Dana’s life and home were also supported for many years by Salvador, a
devoted and
hardworking friend who played an invaluable role in maintaining her property.
Whether it

was caring for the animals, landscaping, or handling any task that needed to be done,

Salvador was always there, ensuring that Dana's beloved home and animals were well

cared for. His dedication went beyond duty—he worked with the same love and respect

that Dana gave to all things, knowing how much her world meant to her. He was a

steady and loyal presence in her life, always willing to lend a helping hand with quiet

strength and reliability.

Dana had an appreciation for high fashion and an eye for elegance. In her younger

years, she modeled, embracing the beauty and sophistication of the fashion world. She

had a fondness for Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Gucci, always carrying herself with grace

and confidence. Yet, for all her love of fine fashion, she was always the true Dana at

heart—kind, down-to-earth, and genuine, never letting material things define her. She

found the greatest beauty not in designer labels, but in the relationships she built, the

animals she cared for, and the love she shared so freely with those around her.

Dana was a devoted member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland for many years,

where she found not just a place of worship, but a true spiritual home. Her faith was a

guiding force throughout her life, strengthened by the wisdom and support of Dr. Rob

Zinn, who played a pivotal role in deepening her relationship with God. In her final year, she experienced one of her greatest joys—getting back on a horse. That moment was a powerful testament to her resilience, her unbreakable spirit, and the love and faith that guided her every step of the way.

Dana leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and compassion. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered by those whose lives she touched.

Rest in peace, dear Dana. Your love, your kindness, and your beautiful spirit will live on in our hearts forever.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Celebration of Life

FEB **24**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (PT)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall

JH

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



John Hurt - July 22, 2025 at 03:23 PM

JH

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



John Hurt - February 25, 2025 at 02:43 AM

CL



Charity Laster - March 06, 2025 at 02:26 PM

JH

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



John Hurt - February 21, 2025 at 10:51 PM

JH

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



John Hurt - February 20, 2025 at 01:16 PM



Love all these john 💕

Charity Rodriguez - February 20, 2025 at 03:06 PM



Beautiful

Darlene Copeland - February 20, 2025 at 08:55 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dana Denise Cole.*



February 20, 2025 at 12:46 PM



“ *Dana was a great person...A big loss. Please accept my condolences.*

Frances Mullane - February 17, 2025 at 09:35 AM



My deepest condolences

Bianca fair - February 17, 2025 at 03:05 PM



“ *I'm so sad to hear of Dana's passing. She was kind hearted and a wonderful friend. She always had a beautiful smile. She will be missed. I hope she is in heaven with her beloved Lionheads that passed before her. She so loved them dearly. Sending prayers of comfort and peace to her family at this difficult time.*

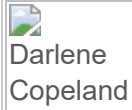
Lee Nevills - February 16, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ *Dana was such a wonderful woman! She was a treasure in the rabbit world with her love of Lionhead bunnies. Some of my rabbits have backgrounds that trace back to lionheads bred by Dana. She was always a joy to talk with. Sending prayers to all who loved her*



crystal Sternard - February 16, 2025 at 09:13 AM

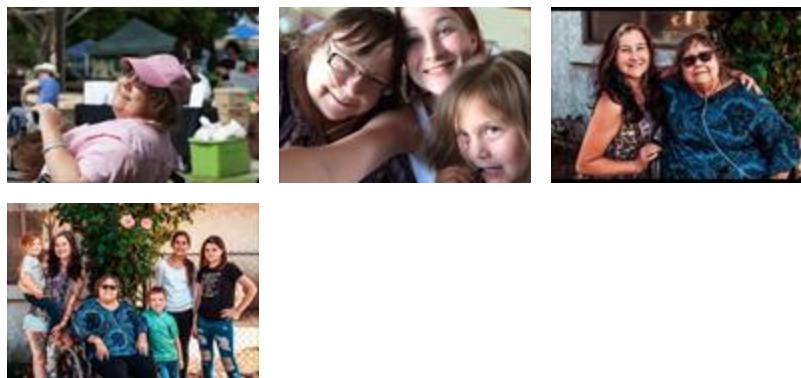


“ *May you rest peace until we meet again please give Greg a big hug from us* 🍷🙏

Darlene Copeland - February 15, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ *Not everyone gets to choose their parents or their children but i feel it is that much more special when they do. My mom picked me when i was 10 years old to be her daughter. She always made sure to tell me how proud she was of me and how much she loved me. She always was there for me when i needed her sound advice or a big hug. Mom was such a light in this world and a light to those around her. Anyone who encountered her could see her light and she always made people feel seen and heard. She was a fighter till the end, she was the toughest woman i have ever met, a true warrior and the definition of strength. I hope to be at least half the woman she was some day. The world went darker the day she left this world. Heaven gained the greatest angel and i hope shes up there dancing and riding horses. I just know she had so many waiting for her at the bridge from all the love she ever gave. Forever you are my mom. Love your daughter. Until we meet again.*



Charity Duran - February 14, 2025 at 10:30 PM



Darlene Copeland

Dana RIP until we meet again please give Greg a hug for me love you
♥

Darlene Copeland - February 15, 2025 at 03:06 PM

CC

So sad to hear of this 😞

Catherine Copeland - February 16, 2025 at 01:45 AM

NS

Hear this news breaks my heart, Dana had a heart of gold, she was a blessing to everyone who knew her. I will miss her:(

Nita Shannon - February 16, 2025 at 03:01 AM

TD

*I am saddened to hear of the passing of Dana.
I met Dana in the late 70's through my dear friend and mentor, Ann Copeland, Dana's aunt. She was teenager at the time. I also had the great opportunity to get to know Dana's mom Alice.
Over the years, I spent a great deal of time at Ann and Elvin's Triple Bar C Ranch showing Quarter Horses and assisting them in ranch duties.
Dana was there too as we rode horses and prepared them for the show arena. I also gave Dana lessons.
It was always nice to keep in touch with Dana over the years and I loved the posting she has done over the years of some of the great Quarter and Thoroughbred horses she posted in Facebook.
To Dana's family, may she rest in peace and her memory be a blessing.*

✌️♥️🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 Terre Duensing

terre duensing - February 16, 2025 at 11:21 AM

BC

Thank you all for the kind words and thoughtful prayers. My sister was a strong person and is a great warrior (trust me, I know) and she fought to the very end. Our hearts and prayers also go out to John during this time as he truly loved my sister and supported her unconditionally-God Bless Dana!!!!

Brian Cole - February 20, 2025 at 11:57 AM

SC

I appreciate all the kind words for Dana. She had a great spirit and determination no matter what she did. She never gave up! We lost her dad a year and a half ago and now our beloved Dana. She was more than a step-daughter to me, she was a caring wonderful friend. I will truly miss her. Thank you, John, for standing by her and taking care of her all these years. I speak for me as well as her dad who loved her dearly. His nickname for her was Diseldorf so, Diseldorf, I know you are with your dad in heaven. God bless you.

Sue Cole 🤔

Sue Cole - February 20, 2025 at 01:45 PM

MC

"My dear Niece", we've had some fun times together. We shared many heartfelt moments through life's difficult journey. I will always love and remember you. Love Aunt Margo

Margo Cole - February 23, 2025 at 03:17 PM