“Forever changed are we upon the loss of a loved one. This past Friday we lost a beautiful soul who loved life and nature with passion. My brother, Ric Barrick. Ric passed away from complications due to diabetes and an infection that his body just could not handle.

As his little brother, I looked up to Ric every day of my life seeking his guidance and grace. Now I will continue to look up to him as he looks over me for the rest of my days until I can join him and my parents once again. Ric was a person who learned though his life to not judge others, but to listen instead. Perhaps that is why his love for animals was so great. Animals do not judge. Ric was a champion for animal rights. Especially dogs. I am certain that he would want those who knew him well to continue his passion.

Give of your time, talents and support to an animal shelter or wherever you can to help those animals in need. Animals do not judge, rather, they reflect your love.
I am not sure what to say in this time of extreme sadness. With the beginning of each new day, I wish for this bad dream to end and go on as if none of this had ever happened. But I can’t. I need to live my life the best way I can and honor my brother in every breath I take in each and every day from now on.

I dream to hug him one last time and tell him that I love him. I’m sure he knows. Please say a prayer for him and his husband, Steve. Sadness and loneliness are only painful if you let it be so.

Having family, friends and loved ones in your life takes that pain away and creates beautiful memories that overcome tragedies such as these. Honor, Ric and make your life one of listening and not judgment. If you wish to give to the Charlottesville – Albemarle SPCA, a memorial fund will be set up in Ric’s name.

My love to all! Ric’s little brother, Matt.”