



Dogecoin Foundation

In Loving Memory of Beloved Meme Icon Balltze, Inspiration of the Cheems Meme and Fellow Shibe.

We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Balltze, lovingly known as “Ball Ball” and, to the wider internet, as “[Cheems](#).” The Dogecoin community and the internet at large mourn the loss of the cherished shiba Inu who passed away during his last scheduled thoracentesis surgery at age 12 on Friday, August 18th, 2023. Ball Ball had been diagnosed with a cancerous tumor earlier this year and was undergoing treatment.

Born on January 9th, 2011, Ball Ball’s meme persona Cheems became a symbol of humorous relatability when one particular photo, captured by his owner in 2017, seemingly showed him expressing deep unease and discomfort. Resonating with people around the world, it quickly became an indelible part of internet culture, spawning countless memes through which people would express their unease, discomfort, or vulnerability in the face of life’s challenges and tribulations. The Cheems meme went on to inspire many more memes, including *Swole Doge vs. Cheems*, which involves a swole version of Kabosu, the shiba inu which inspired the Doge meme and our very own cryptocurrency, and a humorous comparison with the uncomfortable looking Cheems. Ball Ball’s impact and legacy are shown by the great outpouring of messages of condolence and celebration of his life by people from around the world. In a heartfelt [message](#) on Ball Ball’s official Instagram account, his owner Kathy urged fans and followers to focus on the joy Balltze spread during his life, writing:

don't be sad, please remember the joy that Balltze brought to the world. A Shiba Inu with a round smiling face connecting you and me, he has helped many people during the pandemic and brought a lot of joy to many of you, but now his mission has completed. I believe he is running freely in the sky and having a lot of delicious food with his new friends. He will always be inside my heart. I hope he can continue to bring joy to everyone in the online world, that's my only humble request.

The Dogecoin community stands united in grief, cherishing the memory of Ball Ball and the impact he had on countless lives.

Rest in peace, Ball Ball!

You were very much wow!

Annotations & Links

- 1: Official Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/balltze/>
- 2: Announcement of Ball Ball’s passing: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CwHcTXRhRoL/>
- 3: Inspiration of the “Cheems” meme: https://www.instagram.com/p/BYntbPTF1_f/
- 4: Official Website: <https://cheems-balltze.com/pages/our-story>

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About Dogecoin

Dogecoin is a decentralized, peer-to-peer digital currency that enables users to send and receive funds instantly, securely, and with minimal transaction fees. Launched in December 2013 by creators Billy Markus and Jackson Palmer, Dogecoin was initially conceived as a light-hearted response to the growing popularity of cryptocurrencies and the investment/profit-seeking mentality that came with it. The coin features the iconic Shiba Inu Kabosu, who became an internet sensation through the widely shared Doge meme. Continually developed by unpaid volunteers since 2013, Dogecoin has evolved from a playful experiment into a viable and widely accepted cryptocurrency, thanks to the unwavering support and enthusiasm of its dedicated community.

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For more information about Dogecoin, visit the official website at <https://dogecoin.com>

About the Dogecoin Foundation

The Dogecoin Foundation is a non-profit organization originally organised in 2014 and revived in 2021 which is dedicated to fostering the sustainability and success of Dogecoin, the accidental cryptocurrency and movement that makes people smile. The Foundation supports development of the Dogecoin protocol as well as that of the wider Dogecoin ecosystem. It develops solutions for end-users and business to integrate Dogecoin and begin using it today, emphasising usefulness, inclusivity, approachability, and reliability in its projects. It also provides an umbrella for legal defence, trademark protection, working groups, charitable projects and other community activities.

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