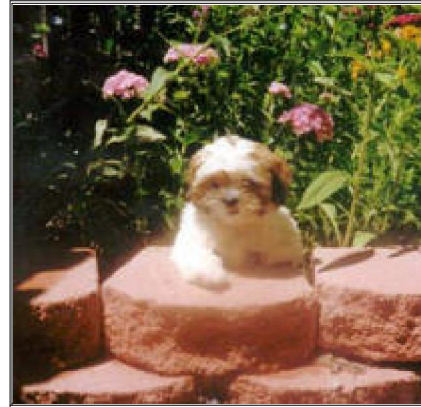


## Hannah's Story



My name is Hannah Xiao Xiao Yueh. Hannah is Hebrew for "grace" and Xiao Xiao means "little one" in Chinese. I am a Lhasa Apso. We were bred in Tibet to guard the inner courtyards in the palaces of the Dali Lama. We are awesome alarm systems.

I was born in Kansas in March 1997, moving to Colorado in June to begin my real life. My new family had lost Chelsea, their 14-year-old Cocker Spaniel mix, the previous December. My Mom



could no longer stand coming home to an almost empty house. The children, John and Suzi, were both in college so home was very lonely for her and my Dad. When he took one look at me (I weighed 3.5 pounds), he exclaimed, "She is the cutest puppy I have ever seen; look at the face!" Thus began my happy times with my very own family.

My Mom took me to work with her at a preschool every day. Children who were being good listeners had the opportunity to take me for walks. I became close friends with Ms. Mary, my Mom's office partner, and her family as well. They took care of me when my family left to go on vacations. After my Mom retired from her job at the preschool, I became bored with our daily walks and just laying around the house while she cleaned, worked on the computer and did the other things that humans need to do.

When she and my Dad went on a weekend trip to Las Vegas, they saw on the front page of USA TODAY an article about Denver Pet Partners and their work with therapy dogs at Swedish Hospital. Well! My Mom immediately went to the DPP website and discovered that a training session was soon to be held. She signed up and began working with me so we could be evaluated as a therapy team. After we passed our evaluation, I learned that every time she put the green Delta Society vest on me that good things were about to happen!





We began visiting at Swedish Hospital in January 2004. By the second time I walked through the hospital doors, my head held high and my tail curled, I knew what was coming. Sometimes when I relax on the patients' beds, I do not want to leave. Many patients have volunteered to keep me with them while Mom goes about her business. One elderly gentleman even offered \$700.00 plus a sack of fertilizer to buy me for his wife! When his wife came in to the room a while later, she laughed and cried at the same time! You might have guessed that he was a retired rancher.

Every week someone tells us that we make their day or I am an angel. There are so many stories and so little time. We especially enjoy visiting long-term patients, they so look forward to our visits. I love curling up close to people while they pet me. Sometimes I let out a relaxed sigh that makes them smile or even laugh. The hospital staff looks forward to seeing us every week. They make me feel so great. I do a special dance and roll over onto my back for belly rubs. When we are finished with our rounds, I always stop at the door to the pre-admit area so we can visit the waiting patients as well as the volunteers and staff. We have participated in "Take Your Child To Work Day" three times. We get to interact with over 100 kids of different ages over the course of three hours. When we leave the hospital at the end of our rounds, I am so tired I sleep all the way home in the car.



My little brother, Isaac Wei Wei is a 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  year old Lhasa Apso. He greets us at the door anxious to catch the scents of all the people who have been loving on me. His name, Isaac, means "laughter" in Hebrew. Wei Wei translates to "great smiley one" in Chinese. He is so energetic and happy that he makes us all tired! My mom has taken up a hobby of making baskets for new puppies and doggy birthday parties. She lines them with dog print material, makes blankets and includes toys. My brother loves to go to his toy basket and drag things all over the house. Hopefully, some day soon, he can participate in this awesome program we call Pet Partners!