

Teddy's Story

(IT TAKES A GOLDEN)



I am a two-year old Golden Retriever named Teddy. My Mom named me Teddy because the first time she saw me she thought I looked like a soft, cuddly, stuffed teddy bear and all she wanted to do was hug me. I guess the name fits because a lot of people seem to like to pet and hug me.

Some years before I was part of it, my family moved to Colorado from Massachusetts. Among the first "beings" they met were two Golden Retriever therapy dogs at Denver Children's Hospital. My Mom was very intrigued by them, their owner and the work that they did. Little did she know a seed had been planted that day which would grow, bloom and I would be right in the center.

Before I was born in Colorado, in April 2004, my family had been "owned" by Honey, a Golden Retriever who had lived to be fourteen and a half years old. My Mom has told me many stories about Honey and what a wonderful family pet she had been. Honey was often referred to as the "grand dame" since she helped raise my Mom and Dad's three children, Alison, Mark and Emily. Soon Alison and Mark were in college and Emily about to further her education as well. My Mom could not bear the thought of an empty nest AND no dog. She was only considering another female Golden until she met me which was love at first sight. So, only a few short months after Honey's death, I became part of the Rosenwasser family.



I have been a working dog from the beginning. My first job was to help mend my Mom's broken heart from losing Honey. Mom often says that getting me was the best thing for her. My next task was keeping her company after Emily left for college. This wasn't too hard for me since Golden Retrievers are natural ambassadors of love and companionship. Mom and I go just about everywhere together; puppy class, obedience class and for lots of walks in the park.

My Mom is a nurse and has known for a long time that it takes more than good medicine, nurses and MDs to help patients get well. She had an idea that we would make a good therapy team.

After encouragement from my first dog trainer, Mom searched the Internet soon learning about the Delta Society and Denver Pet Partners. After taking the DPP Workshop, we became a Pet Partner team soon visiting at Porter Place, a nursing home, and also at the Medical Center of

Aurora. A month later we became R.E.A.D certified and began looking for a school that would need us. But then things changed..... My Dad accepted a new job in Kansas City and before I knew it we moved to Kansas. My Mom was sad that we had to move from Colorado and disappointed that we would have to stop our therapy work with DPP. Once Again, I needed to help cheer her up, but, hey, we are a team! My Mom



contacted Mo-Kan Pet Partners, the Delta



Society affiliate in Kansas, to join them and see what work we could find there. As it turned out, their R.E.A.D coordinator contacted us right away and just a few weeks after moving to Kansas, we began working in the R.E.A.D. program at an elementary school. This has been so much fun. The children read to me and pet me. I really look forward to seeing the children each week. We also work in a local library on Saturdays in

their READ To A Dog program. It's a dog's life and I love it!

Shortly after beginning visits at the school, we began working in a nursing home and also in a rehabilitation center. The seniors are very special to me and I especially like visiting with them. Some of the seniors like it when I sit on their bed for awhile. Others like my head in their lap so they can stroke my soft head. I hear many of the residents tell my Mom that a simple hug from me can make the difference between a good day and a not-so-good day. This makes my tail wag.



While in Colorado we didn't have the opportunity to meet most of the DPP teams since we were Pet Partners for a very short time, we are so grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of such a wonderful organization.

My Mom and I think there are three key reasons why DPP is so successful:

1. The leadership and dedication to the Delta Society mission statement within DPP led by Diana McQuarrie.

She is a leader without parallel. Diana's commitment to DPP on every level is appreciated by all members of DPP and the community. We will never be able to thank her enough for all of her encouragement and support.

2. The continuing education offered during the monthly meetings and special programs offered provide ongoing education, guidance and resources that help ensure excellence in the DPP teams. The monthly meetings are also fun!

3. The DPP teams and their dedication and commitment to excellence and the countless number of hours the teams are willing to dedicate to the community by sharing their time and their wonderful animals with patients and children.



My Mom laughs and smiles more now. I have helped her to realize that everyone feels lonely sometimes but if you look, a friend can always be found. Moving to a new place is a real challenge. We miss Denver and our work there. We plan to visit Denver this summer and hope to attend one of the monthly meetings and see many of our friends. We are also looking ahead now to enjoying our new life and work in Kansas. We will never forget our friends and mentors at Denver Pet Partners.



"When you close your eyes and imagine the perfect dog, it's hard to do better than the Golden Retriever. Calm but alert, powerful yet gentle, handsome and capable."
(And someone to hold in your heart forever!)
[from "What Goldens Teach

Us" by Andrea Donner, 2005]