



Dianne Fry-Bolton and Oliver



In the Beginning



I always thought it would be awesome to have a therapy dog come visit if I ever had to stay in the hospital. I have had a few dogs over the years, but it never really crossed my mind that they could be therapy dogs. I couldn't believe it when my neighbor/friend/co-worker asked us if we would like to adopt her amazingly cute 4-month-old American Eskimo/Siberian Husky puppy. After two months, she discovered the respiratory issues she had been suffering were caused by an allergy to her new puppy. Oliver (fka Chewy) was the cutest, sweetest, calmest 4-month-old puppy I had ever met, of course I (we) wanted him!

Oliver got his obedience training through the correctional facility in Cañon City. When people ask about Oliver's training, I tell them he was scared straight into being a therapy dog.

After Oliver got home from "prison," I would find him spending time on my mom's bed with her when she wasn't feeling well. When Oliver was 8 months old, I was at Good Samaritan Medical Center with my mom and noticed their Caring Canines board. I mentioned to my mom I thought Oliver would make a good therapy dog. From there, I investigated what it would take to get him to be a Caring Canine. One of the requirements for Caring Canines was to be registered with one of three national therapy dog organizations, Pet Partners being one of them. So, I decided to start the journey of becoming a therapy dog team.

After attending the May 2017 Pet Partners handler workshop, I was ready to start working with Oliver to see how he would take to be a therapy dog. We visited Lowe's and Home Depot to get him used to the various noises and people and petting opportunities. Many of the children we saw wanted to say hi to Oliver so I would have Oliver sit and perform his



only trick...a high five. I would use PETS to ensure the encounter was pleasant for the kids and Oliver. He was always so sweet and patient with everyone. I was so pleased when we passed our evaluation in July 2017 with a predictable score.

The Eyes Have It



Oliver has two interesting attributes regarding his eyes.

First, both eyes have both blue and brown. The left eye, which is about half and half, is the most obvious. The right eye is mostly blue with a bit of brown at the top.



Second, he has Christmas eyes, as can be seen in this picture. He doesn't have the classic "red eyes" in a picture, he has one red eye and one green eye.

Good Samaritan Medical Center



After we got our Pet Partners registration, we applied to be a Caring Canine at SCL Health Good Samaritan in Lafayette. We had to wait until January 2018 for the volunteer training to begin. In March 2018, we were finally able to start visiting patients. On Oliver's first day, we went to the ICU waiting room area and there were 5 or 6 kids who were all so excited to see Oliver. They all got a kick to get a high five from him and he enjoyed all the treats he got from them.

Oliver does better visiting when the patient or visitor is sitting or standing. He's a medium-sized dog so the beds are a bit high for him.

One memorable patient was a lady we saw for two or three months. Her memory was not so good, and she would make the same comments and ask the same questions each time.

DPP Team of the Month (November 2020)

DENVER PET PARTNERS



She wanted to keep Oliver and take him home with her when she got out. She was very sweet.

We had been visited weekly until March 2020 when Good Samaritan stopped allowing volunteers to come in. This picture was added to a tribute to the frontline workers at Good Samaritan to show our appreciation for all they do. Good Samaritan has since started allowing volunteers again, however, my mom is high risk and I cannot risk getting her sick. We hope to start visiting again soon.

My Little Angel

The making of Oliver's first snow angel November 2019.

