

Karen McClure and Sophie



Karen and Sophie

So, this is the "Story of Sophie" —another therapy dog. She is an 8-year-old golden doodle (64.3 in human years). Sophie came to us from a puppy farm website. I was looking for a companion to bond with and encourage my husband to walk after a knee replacement. Sophie was an excellent participant in this task, but she still seemed to need more of a purpose in her life. This is when I pursued a "career" with DPP.

Sophie's first passion will always be looking for and stalking rabbits in our neighborhood. I am envious of her ability to see them yards away, stalk them very patiently (sometimes taking 5 minutes) and then accelerate quickly till they escape under a fence. She has never caught one, THANK GOD!

Sophie's second passion is people. She loves the attention of people who enjoy her attention. Who doesn't? I get the pleasure and joy of watching this mutual attraction between humans and dogs each time we visit.

Many of our first visitations as a DPP therapy team was to Swedish hospital where Sophie regularly visited the Oncology Infusion Center, the ER and the Surgical Waiting areas. These departments are filled with people looking for any kind of diversion. There is nothing better than getting love from a smiling dog whose eyes say "Don't ever stop petting me" to ease the pain of their wait.

We also had regular visits with companions referred to us by a local hospice organization, a company that is so devoted to the health and welfare of their patients, that one almost would like to join---almost. Our companion, Sally, a feisty, humorous and intelligent 96-year-old who resided on a Memory Care floor, was a favorite. She entertained us with stories of her family (Wally, hubby and lots of sons), her adventures raising those boys in South America, her tales of growing up with her brothers early in the 20th century. Sally shared with me, her best recipes (I now know the best way to cook green beans) and the passions in her life—golfing, family, and art. On one occasion, Sophie and I were sitting with her, she in a wheelchair, when another resident of the facility was trying to get past her with his walker. When he finally gets past, she whispers to me, "Karen, that is so aggravating when he keeps bumping my wheelchair with his walker. Why don't you have Sophie go over and bite him in the butt?" Sophie did not find this appetizing, THANK GOD.



Sally and Sophie

DPP Team of the Month (February 2021)

DENVER PET PARTNERS



Jerome and Sophie

Sally is sadly no longer with us, but we do have other friends to walk with, Jerome being one of them. He seems to enjoy helping me keep Sophie on the right side of the street and many of our discussions involve how to solve the world's problems. We miss our pre-Covid visitations which seem to fill a need in our lives and others.

Sophie does have a new challenge in our home—LBK—“little bitty kitty” who swats at her fluffy tail, eats her dog food, lays outstretched on her dog cushion and tries to follow her when we walk. Has DPP ever had a therapy kitten? I have heard they do!!



LBK and Sophie