



Laurie Gough and Daphne



My name is Daphne Rose Gough and I am a 13 lb. twice rescued mutt. My pet parents are Laurie and Scott, but they started out as my pet grandparents since their daughter Anna rescued me six years ago. Anna fortunately changed my name from Sprinkles to Daphne, but unfortunately worked full-time so she wisely gave me to her parents. My four-legged, older sister Zoey and I keep each other company when our pet parents are away.

Laurie worked at Parker Library and enjoyed watching the interaction between therapy dogs and the children that read to them. Soon after that, I was learning to sit, stay, come and lie down. It took Laurie a little bit to realize I could learn practically anything if she gave me Skinny Minis Rotisserie Chicken Flavor treats. With those treats at the ready, I was motivated to also learn how to give “high-fives” and to “stand up and dance.”

In the fall of 2018, Laurie and I became a therapy team with Denver Pet Partners. I am a very happy and proud mutt when I wear that purple vest. We started our teamwork by going to distress events at Rocky Vista University where I loved being cuddled and cooed over by the student doctors. It was then that Laurie decided to find out the answer to the common question of what kind of dog I was. Let’s just say my ancestors liked to have a good time. I am half Poodle, and the rest is made up of Pomeranian, Pekinese and Shih-Tzu (also known as three “Ps” and a “poop” ((no disrespect intended as I am proud of my Shih-Tzu heritage!)).

Then, in the spring of 2019, Laurie spent hours by her mom’s bedside as her mother quit eating and was put into hospice. As Laurie visited her mom in the healthcare facility, she began to see that there were many lonely people who lived there and would benefit from visits by therapy teams. When Laurie’s mom died, I learned that kissing tears away provided much needed grief therapy.

We started visiting “Betty” at a senior living facility in Parker. Betty was very sad and missed her little dog that had recently been turned into the pound because it barked too loudly every time Betty left her room. I’m proud to say



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that one of my most popular attributes is my soft fur. Betty loved to stroke it while I sat in her lap, so Laurie would take off my vest so she could feel my fur. Being petted this way often makes me fall asleep (please see the picture of Betty, in the colorful shirt, and me). By the time Betty passed away, Laurie and I had grown to know and love her. She will always have a special place in our hearts.



We now visit “companions” for Bristol Hospice. I enjoy sitting with the elderly and listening to the residents ask Laurie to bring them a dog just like me. In addition to the Bristol Hospice visits, Laurie and I walk the Concourses at DIA as part of the CATS program (Canine Airport Therapy Squad). I get lots of attention there as the airport is full of stressed-out travelers.

Laurie and I would like to thank the board members of DPP for this recognition and their dedication. Also, a big bow-wow to my fellow therapy team members for the great work they do.

