



Karen and Andy Sibley with Gracie



Karen with Gracie

Gracie Sibley is a nine-year-old English Cream Golden Retriever. She has worked as a therapy dog with her owners Karen and Andy Sibley at St. Francis Medical Center, Colorado Springs for the past seven years accruing 2500 hours of service.

Karen and Andy lost their therapy dog, Holly, to cancer in November of 2012. Holly was a special dog and the first therapy dog in St. Francis' history. She taught Karen and Andy a lot about therapy work with dogs. We wanted to

continue with therapy work, so the search for a new puppy

began. We found a new puppy in Shell Knob, Missouri. We packed up and drove to pick up our girl--a soft white fluff with a tail!

We had forgotten the joys of puppyhood! This puppy was a real rascal—fun, in spite of the chewed rugs and tassels! It took a lot of puppy obedience classes—beginners, advanced, remedial lessons, private lessons, and practicing up and down the driveway day after day. One day the light came on in Gracie's brain—oh, so that's what you want me to do! She is such a joy for us, the hospital staff and patients. She especially loves kids but gives her paw and love to everyone.



An especially fun experience we had with Gracie was with the Broncos. The Broncos were having a slow time and quarterback problems! When the Broncos played, Andy, Karen, and Gracie dressed for the occasion. When the Broncos scored, Karen and Gracie ran around the room, gave the touchdown sign and Gracie got a biscuit.

Well, things were tough here at home with the Bronco losses. Karen on behalf of Gracie wrote a letter to John Elway offering her abilities as a therapy dog to help the team. She received a nice letter from John Elway for her interest and offer.

DPP Team of the Month (February 2022)

DENVER PET PARTNERS



During a routine teeth cleaning last January, her veterinarian discovered cancer in her tonsil. It was verified at the CSU Veterinary School. She has been in treatment here in Colorado Springs at the Colorado Spring Veterinarian Clinic. She has her very own veterinary oncologist. What a wonderful place with an incredible staff and doctors. Gracie is doing well, and we are in hopes of another year. Our life has been blessed and enriched with the incredible puppy angel from God, as have the patients at St. Francis.