

Francie Steinzeig and Miggy



Miggy and I are proud to be selected as Team of the Month for July. We have been a team since October 2021. Miggy has matured into his role, and we passed our last evaluation at the complex level.

We adopted Miggy in December 2019 from a local rescue group when he was about a year old. His foster mom called me after reading my application which stated that I was looking for a friendly dog that liked people. She thought that one of her foster pups (named Danny at the time) would be a good match. My first pet partner, Roscoe, was aging, and I wanted our new pup to learn from his elder. We all bonded quickly when Miggy joined our household with my husband Gary, Roscoe, and two cat sisters.



Miggy learning from his big brother Roscoe



Miggy and Kelli soaking up the sun

People often ask me about Miggy's name. We usually name our pets after rocks and minerals inspired by my husband's career as a geologist. While hiking on a white and black rock in Chile named Migmatite, I suggested that

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we name our next dog Miggy. When we met this cute, little white and black dog, I knew it was kismet!



A perfect day for 6-year-old Miggy consists of an enthusiastic spin as a good morning greeting, an early breakfast, a walk around the park, a school visit where he receives tons of pets, sitting in the front window on the lookout for the cats across the street, sunbathing, dinner, another evening walk and sleeping on my lap. I call him my little, social ambassador as we take our walks because he greets all dogs happily no matter their size. He is certainly a cuddly dog with a touch of bravado!

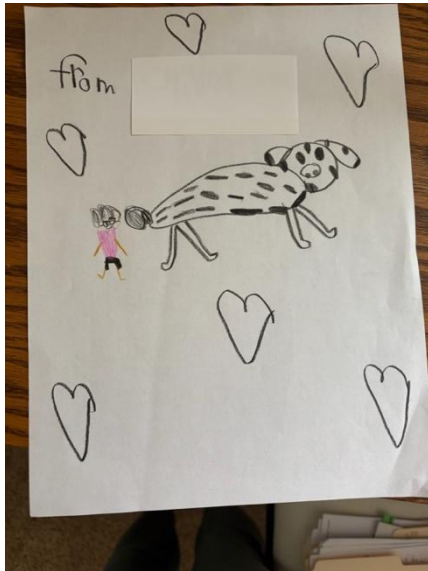


Miggy and his cat sister, Saussy, checking out the neighbor's cat in our yard.

This past year, Miggy and I visited three different elementary schools as well as participating in a couple of de-stress events. Miggy is always excited about entering a school because he might just be lucky and find a crumb by the lunch boxes lining the hallway. Yes, he is very food motivated. I am a retired school psychologist so visiting elementary schools with Miggy is a perfect retirement gig for me. Each school has unique needs, but all of the students benefit from the special relationships that develop with our recurring visits.

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I love this picture drawn by a first grader because it shows who is really important during the visit.



Library time at one school offered each class the chance to meet Miggy and learn about therapy dogs. He is at his best while joining small groups where he can enjoy lots of pets and belly rubs. He has really relaxed over the past few years as can be seen in the photo where he served as a table for a card game. I am always pleased when I see and feel the energy in the room calm with Miggy's presence. I have learned over the years that it really doesn't matter what Miggy does in terms of commands and tricks, but it is more about developing a relationship with the students and providing an opportunity to chill out.



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Miggy is always ready for belly rubs.



Summer 2024 at Camp Wapiyapi

Miggy brings much joy to friends and family with his cute personality, soft coat, and happy tail wags!