

Kathleen and Clancey's Story



Buzz Me In! I'm a Working Dog!

by Clancey



Buzz me in! Buzz me in! Unlock the door
I've got work to do - a heart to heal - and so much more

A visit from the outside is so rare
Let me in! Let me in! I'll show him I care

We listen, we learn, he laughs when we play
He'll forget his troubles for an hour this day

I'll teach him patience as he teaches me tricks
But healing what's broken - there's no quick fix

What he's done in the past makes no difference to me
My friend is gentle and kind - let me in and you'll see

It's a beautiful day with blue sky above
I'm here to share unconditional love!

Let me in! Let me in! Today may be the day!
My friend who's in pain has something to say

It's often a struggle for a young man to talk
But reflection is easier while out for a walk

Or maybe we'll play with my favorite tug toy
To his surprise - He's not the only Tough Boy!

Buzz me in! Buzz me in! Unlock the door
I've got work to do - a heart to heal - and so much more

We strive for self-confidence instead of defeat
He'll teach me a trick - I'll work for a treat!

Sit , Stay, Down, Come
We practice self-discipline - we both can use some!

So, let me in, let me in - I've got work to do
He trusts me, respects me, and needs me too!

His anger consumes him as he sits in his cell
One hour with me and maybe he'll tell

Who beat him, abused him, and battered his heart
The violence and rage that tore his family apart
Buzz me in! Buzz me in! Unlock the door
I've got work to do - a heart to heal - and so much more

Today, we may play a clever little game
That encourages my friend to face his guilt and his shame

Or maybe we'll sit still and ponder quietly
As the Big Bad Boy pets me gently

He can hug me, hold me, and scratch behind my ears
Relax - breathe - let go of his fears

My friend made mistakes causing pain along the way
Have we in society thrown him away?

Let me in! Let me in! Unlock the door
I've got work to do - a heart to heal - and so much more!

(Buzzzzzz...Door Opens)

I'm in! I'm in! Now, let's throw the ball
Who am I kidding?

THIS ISN'T WORK AT ALL!

Clancey and I are proud and honored to be members of the American Humane Animal-Assisted Therapy program. We began our journey together as one of the first Pet Partner teams at Mount View Youth Services Center working one-on-one with an adolescent boy committed to the state juvenile correctional system. Clancey contributes to the client's overall treatment process by strengthening critical life skills such as appropriate social interaction, anger management, impulse control, self-care and empathy.

Clancey is a big dog with a big PERSONALITY and an even bigger HEART! In addition to at-risk youth, Clancey has worked with children with autism and veterans, and he has participated in numerous community presentations. He is currently visiting patients at Swedish Medical Center.

Clancey and I are truly blessed to be able to do this work. Together, we hope to enrich the lives of the people we meet and share with them the remarkable healing power of the human-animal connection.

Kathleen Kelley
AHAAT Member since 2008

