

Christina and Skye's Story



"Simerdown's Isle of Skye" is a pretty fancy name for a little ball of fur and that's exactly what Skye was at five-weeks old. By default I was granted pick of the litter which was so exciting for me, but the real excitement began when Skye picked me. And trust me, through her "special attitude" she reminds me on a daily basis how lucky I am that she chose me. She sees my many imperfections but graciously tolerates me all the same.....and thus began our relationship.

Before Skye was born plans were already underway to work toward becoming a pet partner team.

(Maybe that's where Skye's attitude comes from, she didn't get to pick her career). Anyway, at 14-weeks-old Skye exhausted all the knowledge that I had about training a dog. However, at this point she had me retrieving and spraying her bed with lavender-mint linen spray. It was time to call a professional!

I chose to work with Barbara Weiss as she also worked with pre-schoolers ... a great combo for a 14-week-old lusty lab. I told Barb that Skye was only 14-weeks old but so ready to learn. Also, if I was wrong in my assessment of Skye please feel free to send us home.

We had so much fun training with and learning from Barb.

We took every class she offered for the next year. When Skye was 15-months-old she passed her Delta Exam and so did I. That was in February of 2008.



Skye and I started out slowly, going to Shots for Tots, Night Owls and signing up for the various single visit opportunities through American Humane Association. One of our visits was the Morning Star Adult Day Program offered through Aurora Parks and Recreation. They had been looking for a pet partner team for over a year and DPP was asking a team to do a one-time-visit. It was a perfect fit for both of us and we have been visiting monthly since August of 2009. I call it "our steady gig".

Skye has also done some nice work with children in the Cherry Creek School District and she frequently comes to work with me. As a psychologist with a private practice Skye adds so much to this therapeutic environment. Children talk to her, draw her image, play games with her, and love on her. Adults soften to the give and take relationship that this beauty of a pooch offers.

It is such a great honor and privilege to be a part of this pet partner team and American Humane Association. I cannot say enough about the caring, compassionate people and the marvelous animals that make up this group. Thank you for having us. – Christina Evans & Skye