

## Rosie's Story



I am pleasantly surprised at being selected DPP team of the month for March 2008. Rosie & I have visited Swedish Medical Center since 2004. We have enjoyed our time with the patients, visitors and staff. I am always reminded with each visit that a happy dog touches people in a special way

Rosie is an 8 yr. old Labrador Retriever who I've had since she was 8 weeks old. When I picked her up from the breeder he said, "she is going to need a lot of attention". Little did I know what he was talking about! Rosie was one of 3 in the litter and, at 8 weeks, she didn't resemble a puppy! She had plenty of milk from mom so her body was twice the size that it should have been with a tiny head. I thought she would eventually weigh 100 pounds but, instead, she ended up being rather small and lean, weighing in at 55 pounds. She has always had lots of energy, which explains why she has been in training from day one. Most of the energy has been funneled into dog agility competition, obedience training and pet therapy, not to mention all the hikes, walks, and fetching her

bumper out of the ponds.

Rosie has excelled in the interactive sport of dog agility because she is very athletic and was motivated from the start. When we compete she gets so excited to run the obstacle course that her entire body shakes until I say, "go", then it's off to the races for me to stay ahead of her - which is a challenge! Through the many hours of practice it was amazing the bond and trust we developed as a team to the point where Rosie would know which jump to take simply by watching my body movements.



Over the years visiting at Swedish one comment I hear often is "your dog is so calm". I have to laugh because outside the hospital I would put Rosie in the "hyper" category, but for some reason when Rosie is working in the hospital she is very mellow (except for the visits to the ladies at the information desk). I have fond memories of all our visits. What I remember most are the smiles, laughs and the "thanks you, you made my day better" comments from visitors, staff and especially patients.

Rosie is very much a part of my family and many decisions we make revolve around her, from where to go for a hike to where to take vacation. Through all the training and competing we have done together she would make me laugh, cry and scream all in the same day, and through it all she would always do something out of the ordinary that would make me take notice that she is special.