

## *Laurie Schmidt and Brock*



Brock and I feel so honored to be able to tell some of many wonderful stories about experiences. Not sure where I should start, I will begin with some of my family background. My parents were AKC obedience judges and I traveled to many dog shows, matches, and classes. They raised and showed many breeds of dogs, e.g. German Shepherds, English Springer Spaniels, and Pembroke Welsh Corgis. I personally love all animals and did my fair share of showing when young.

As an adult I pursued Teaching as a career, I taught 30 years of Kindergarten and First Grade. I became interested in raising Guide Dogs for the Blind and raised four (4) GDB puppies with one of them making a Guide Dog. Moving east of the Cascades in Washington State allowed me to pursue a different service dog group, Canine Companions for Independence, which serves all the other challenging disabilities, including deaf. I have raised 11 service puppies for CCI, one of which is my current therapy dog, Brock. Three of these puppies made service dogs in California and Arizona. All of the puppies I raised were allowed to go to school with me and some outstanding learning took place.

Brock did not make the cut to be a service dog, so I took him back to be a therapy dog and was lucky enough to find Denver Pet Partners and enlisted with them, so I could continue working with dogs and children. What a blessing it was! Wow!

Brock and I have been with DPP for over 5 years and have done many special events and regular events. Brock loves visiting DU during their exam week and the students seem to enjoy visiting with Brock and me during that stressful time. Brock has even had two girls crying over



## *DPP Team of the Month (June 2018)*

DENVER PET PARTNERS



him! We have visited various schools, events, and universities during this time.

The last two years I have volunteered weekly at Mammoth Heights Elementary school reading individually with students from K through 5<sup>th</sup>. All the children there seem to know Brock and ask to pet him. The staff at the school love him as well, often stopping to hug Brock. We do not just volunteer at the school, often DPP has another experience for us to participate in. Personally, I feel so proud of how Brock and I have helped some of the struggling students gain confidence and skill working with us. All of them are in love with Brock. His soft coat and wonderful demeanor make him a welcome guest. I have seen these students this year make wonderful strides in reading and socially. I just said good-bye to another successful school year with Brock and looking forward to next year.

