

Karen Morris and Julep



“Yay Julep’s here!” That’s the phrase I hear wherever I go with Julep. Everyone recognizes her – I’m really just there to open the doors for her!

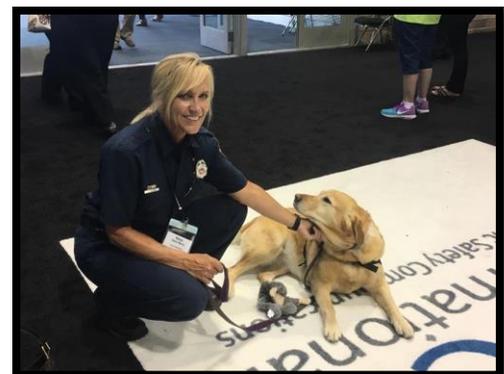
Julep arrived in 2011 in a little crate via air freight. She was sent to us from Canine Companions in California after we applied to be puppy raisers. She’s changed my life ever since that day! My husband Kurt and I both work as firefighters and I was able to bring her to work every day that I was on shift. The guys loved having her at the station, she provided a lot of love and laughs and got some great socialization.

After 18 months we had to send her back to Canine Companions for her advanced service dog training. It was incredibly hard having to hand her off, but she was hopefully going to make someone else’s life better and open doors for them!

After a couple of months, we got the call that Julep wasn’t going to pass her advanced training and we were on the next plane out to go pick her up! She’s an amazingly calm and sweet dog, I knew she still had so much to offer in terms of helping people. So, I searched around and found Denver Pet Partners, we became a Therapy Dog Team in 2014!

We started volunteering at University Hospital where we visit mainly the burn unit and more recently oncology. It’s been an incredible and humbling experience for me to see the emotional impact and the good that a dog can create with the patients, their family and the medical staff.

Each team has their stories of those unforgettable moments with their dogs and the impact they have. The most incredible (sad but incredible) witness I’ve had of Julep’s connection was at the hospital, we were just walking down the





hall about to leave for the day. A nurse spotted us and ran up to ask if we could come visit a young patient in the oncology unit who'd been asking his family for a dog to visit. We went back up the elevator and she went to check on him and found that he had just passed. The family still wanted Julep to come in, and with the young man still in bed surrounded by his family Julep went up to greet every one of them. She happily got up on the bed with the young man as they asked her to, and later she got up onto the lap of his father putting her front legs and head on his lap. She stayed there for over 15 minutes as he hugged on her and cried. We were all crying of course, and I'll never forget the power of those moments.



Julep is usually not so serious, she loves being outdoors, meeting people, napping, swimming, the snow (the colder the better) and any type of food she can locate. She has to have a stuffed animal in her mouth at all times, especially for greeting and sleeping. I have about 100 pictures of her sleeping with a toy in her mouth and hugging it!

Julep and I are also on

the North Area Peer Support Team (comprised of 13 fire departments), which provides support and resources for firefighters. Recently Julep and I also became certified to be part of the Westminster Police Department's Victim Advocate Team, where she will be called in to help children and adults with such things as traumatic experiences and difficult witness statements. We recently received the Westminster CFire Community Advocates of the Year award.



Julep also participates in the R.E.A.D. program at College Hill Library, and occasionally with the Adams County Court. She also has participated as neutral dog at evaluations and several other wonderful events that DPP arranges.

DPP Team of the Month (November 2018)

DENVER PET PARTNERS



It's been an amazing experience with her, I'm so glad we found DPP and became a therapy team. I'm grateful for all that I've learned and witnessed, seeing the goodness and healing that dogs provide.

