

Jazmine's Testimonials

Jazmine is an incredible dog! Adopted from the Pueblo Animal Shelter in May, 2002, she was very shy and scared of people due to the abuse she had endured before going to the shelter. Eventually we discovered that she actually has a bullet lodged in her rib. She is now one of my best friends and the best dog I have ever owned. She and I are totally “bonded”. She travels nationally with me, participating in my school programs and sharing her message of kindness and respect with kids everywhere. She constantly receives “fan mail” from kids everywhere – she kissed over 30,000 kids last year and is on track to do the same this year.

Following are two of the most incredible of her many success stories:

We visited a school in the heart of Minneapolis (a very rough part of town) last fall. One of the students, a 2nd grader, was classified as “troubled” and a discipline problem. He had been suspended several times, had his playground privileges revoked because of his violent nature to other students, and had actually thrown a chair at his teacher. I invited him to be Jazmine’s and my “guide” for the day. He escorted us from room-to-room and was “beaming” each time I introduced him to the classes. By the end of the day, he would sit on the floor behind me and Jazmine would lie with her head on his lap. He constantly petted her. We took a photo of him with Jazmine and gave it to him. A few weeks later the school called to inform me that he had won an award for his good behavior and that he carried the photo of Jazmine with him everywhere. His parents had actually called the school, wondering what had happened to change his behavior so drastically. It was Jazmine. She worked her wonders on him. I mailed him copies of the books as a Christmas gift from Jaz. The parents reported that he never previously had any interest in reading, but now reads the books each night. Hearing this brought tears to my eyes. What a great story from a great dog!

Last year in Colorado, Jazmine and I were invited to talk with a group of troubled youth at the “Breakfast Buddies” event. These kids were all from very rough homes. I shared Jaz’s story of abuse and how she overcame her fears and issues. She entertained the kids who spent a lot of time petting her. Before leaving, I held a drawing and gave out some autographed books. As the kids were leaving, the teacher informed me that this book would probably be the only one ever owned by a little boy who won a copy. He was so excited about it. A few weeks later I was speaking at a Family Literacy Event, which was filled with kids and parents. Afterwards, when I was signing books, someone tapped me on the shoulder, asking if I remembered him. It was that little boy! He had talked his mother into bringing him to the literacy event. And he is no longer in the troubled kids group. Again, due to Jazmine and the wonders she works!