Harley (Amputee)

Certified: ThD, CGC

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Golden Retriever

Mardi

Certified: ThD

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Saint Bernard

Phoenix

Certified: ThD, CGC

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Sheltie

Simon

Certified: ThD

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Great Dane

Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital Pet Therapy

WHAT IS A THERAPY DOG?

A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, with people who have learning difficulties, and in stressful situations, i.e. disaster areas and combat. A therapy dog should be able to motivate people to talk or reminisce, or to accomplish a task. It could be something as simple as a smile, to reach out to pet, to be a friend to just listen, provide comfort, but must improve the quality of life. Therapy dogs come in all sizes, mixed breeds, and pure breeds. The most important characteristic of a therapy dog is the dog's temperament. A good therapy dog must be friendly, obedient, patient, confident, calm, and gentle.

HOW DOES A DOG BECOME CERTIFIED AS A THERAPY DOG?

There are many organizations that certify pets for therapy, i.e. Pawsibilities Unleashed, Therapy Dog Inc., Delta Organization and etc. A simple internet search can help locate a local organization.

Many organizations use some form of the American Kennel Club's Good Canine Citizens (CGC) test and a rigorous temperament testing. Training may take up to six months of strenuous training. Not all dogs and pets that are trained for therapy pass the test to become therapy dogs.

Our Dogs at Cardinal Hill:

On Wednesday or Thursday of each week, from 10:00-11:00am, the dogs come to Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital to visit with our clients. Clients are strongly encouraged to ask their therapists to bring them to the Conservatory on the main floor of the hospital where they can spend time with the dogs.

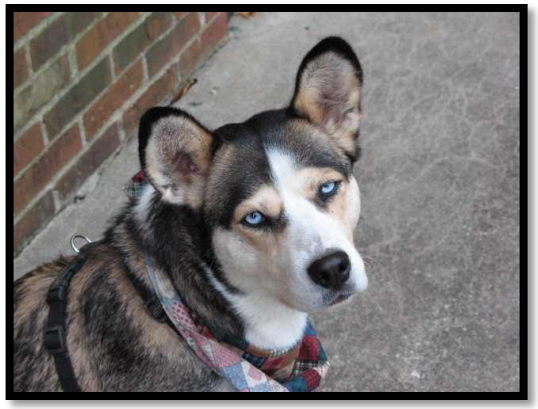
MEET THE DOGS:

Bizzi B

Certified: Therapy Dog (ThD), Service Dog (SD), CGC

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Chihuahua/Jack Russell mix



Ciara

Certified: ThD, CGC

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Siberian Husky/ Corgi Mix

Domino

Certified: ThD, SD, CGC

Pawsibilities Unleashed

Border Collie/Great Pyrenees mix