

## LIFE / PETS / DOGS

See also: [dogs](#), [animal assisted therapy](#), [pet partners](#), [love dog adventures](#)

## Sometimes the Simplest Visit is the Most Powerful

April 11, 2015

10:00 AM MST

The Love Dogs are on the college circuit. Twice a year before final exams, the Love Dog Adventures animal therapy teams visit with students in the local colleges. We have eight visits scheduled over a short period of time to be able to visit them all. But this is something we know is important and truly makes a difference. Our calendar is scheduled through 2016 for these types of events.

If a student comes into the room and spends five minutes with the therapy dogs and owners, we know that student's day has changed. Sometimes when we arrive a line has already formed and we work the "Red Carpet" to bring the dogs in. Sometimes groups of students come in together and gather around each dog sharing a few minutes of this experience. They are all snapping photos and posting on social media.

But it is always the student who comes in alone, wandering from dog to dog, that captures our hearts the most. The student who appears alone, lonely perhaps, worried, anxious, tentative.

The student who wasn't sure if they should stop by. The student who may be missing their own dog terribly. The student who is missing home. The student worried about exams.



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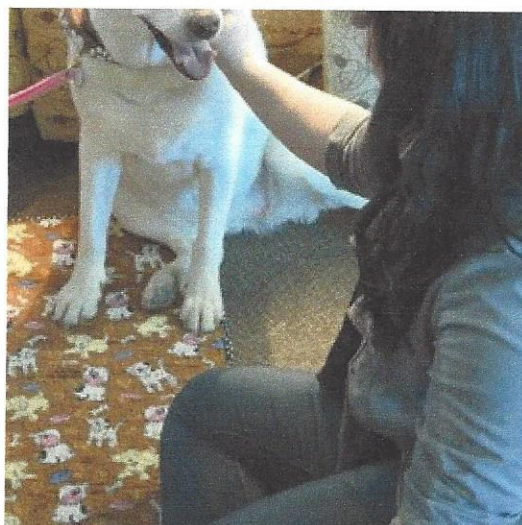
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The student who may even be afraid of dogs.  
Afraid of new people and new conversation.

Something about the dogs give this student  
courage to approach.

We met one such student this semester and it  
changed all of our lives. The crowds had  
lightened up for a time and one student was  
walking around just looking at the dogs. This  
student came over to me and sat down next to us.  
I had Benny on my lap. Something about this one  
beige poodle drew this student in. The student  
said "He looks sad." I explained that Benny always  
looks sad but he's not. That's just his look.



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The student was quite shy with Benny but we sat for a while and the student relaxed. No  
pressure now.

I took Benny outside to potty and we bumped into this student again. The student had not  
held the dogs yet but seemed to really take to Benny. The student held Benny close and  
just rocked him like a baby.

Then we went back inside together and as it was towards the end of our time scheduled, all  
the handlers and dogs pulled their chairs in a circle and this one student had a very special  
visit with all of the Love Dogs.

We had a very successful two hour visit on this campus, but if all we had done was sit with  
this one student during this college session, it was a day well worthwhile - for everyone.

We made an impact on this one student and this student certainly made an impact on all of  
us.

## Recommended