



PAWWS to Heal

Passionate Animals Working With Survivors

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“The main reason for healing is love . . .” – Phillipus Paracelsus, 1541

PAWWS to Heal *Madison’s Story*

Transcript:

Andrea Boles, Madison’s Mom: Madison was born on Nov14. She had a normal birth. She was 6 lbs 4 oz. The first day we brought Madison home she laid there and did not cry at all. She was the “perfect” baby.

We started Madison in day care and the daycare provider noticed that Madison stopped talking, didn’t want to have anything to do with crawling or walking. She would just roll. And that’s when we started questioning and thought there’s some delays there. And we figured we needed to take some steps to get her some help. So that’s when we started her therapy.

When we first started therapy Madison wasn’t able to do anything. She would just lay around. She wouldn’t play with toys. She wouldn’t stand, wouldn’t talk, wouldn’t walk. She didn’t do anything. She had what they call global delays.

Cassandra Woods, Physical Therapist: She would bite me, she would bite mom, she would bite her little brother, an infant, who was a newborn at the time. She would scream constantly. Anything she wanted she would scream, any discomfort. She wasn’t sleeping through the night

Andrea: We went to a neurologist and she was diagnosed with autism.

Cassandra: And one of the first things I noticed, which was not consistent with severe autism, was when I walked in, she noticed that I was there. But only for a very brief moment did she notice me and then she was back in her own little world

Andrea: There was more testing done on Madison and we got the diagnosis of Rett Syndrome. On a daily basis Madison cannot walk, she cannot talk, she cannot feed herself.

Toni Schriver, Founder/CEO PAWWS to Heal: Cassie and I were talking and she said that she is working with a little girl, 2 years old, who has Rett Syndrome, a form of autism, and thought that she would benefit from PAWWS to Heal.

Cassandra: The first time I brought Roxy to the house, Madison immediately attended, visually attended to the dog and physically crawled to the dog. I didn't have to coax her I didn't have to encourage her. She went right to the animal.

Andrea: Madison lit up the second that Roxy walked in the door. Roxy went straight to Madison and started kissing Madison, and she would just giggle and giggle and giggle.

Toni: And then all of a sudden she kind of went back into her, little bit of a screaming fit. And Roxy immediately started licking her hand, licking her face. It was an automatic thing that Roxy just knew to do.

(Video – Madison playing with ball with Roxy, Madison brushing Roxy.)

Cassandra: Her behavior was very appropriate for that animal, which was the exact behavior that we had been striving for during several months in therapy.

Andrea: The interaction between Roxy and Madison is just amazing. Madison tends to Roxy. If she's having a bad day, Roxy will comfort her. If she wants to lay down, Roxy loves to go lay down next to her.

Cassandra: One of the major things that I look at with Madison and Roxy is Madison's ability to socially and emotionally bond with another being.

Andrea: She is now seizure-free. She has been having therapy for 2 years now. Since Roxy came to us, Madison has shown enormous improvements.

Cassandra: It is obvious when Roxy is here with Madison that Madison is emotionally bonded with Roxy.

Andrea: After our sessions with Roxy, Madison is with us. And having Madison with us is so important during those few hours that she here with us mentally, after these sessions.

Produced by Nate Starck & Mike Flanagan
Camera Operator Joe Wicker



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