

A Tribute to Dogs on Call canine volunteer, Luke-“Bringer of Light”



April 12, 2008-April 15, 2013

Ann Hill’s gentle, handsome, sweet-tempered Golden Retriever, Luke (aka Left Hand Lickin’ Luke), peacefully passed over the rainbow on April 15, 2013, three days after his fifth birthday. Luke was a champion therapy dog with a winning smile. With his compassionate, devoted teammate, Ann, they have touched the lives of many Silverthorne Elementary children, and the staff and patients at St. Anthony’s Summit Medical Center, since 2010.

Luke got an early start doing canine therapy. Luke’s human father, Harry, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer when Luke was a young pup. Luke accompanied Harry and Ann to Edwards for Harry’s chemo treatments, and as a youngster, learned the fine art of making a difference by loving the good in people. More recently, Luke regularly visited Ann’s father during his last days in a hospital in Grand Junction.

In Luke’s civilian life with his partner, Ann, he enjoyed backpacking, camping, and hiking. A compliant kayak passenger, he was the self-appointed duck patrol. Luke loved the water and quickly became an avid swimmer. He had his very own pond to swim in all summer. Animal Planet was his favorite TV program, and he often wrestled with his 4’ teddy bear during the commercials. For his daily workouts, Luke enjoyed hikes or snowshoeing and his absolute favorite game was retrieving the Frisbee.

Diagnosed with Lymphoma in late February, Luke quickly began chemotherapy and appeared to be improving with his treatments. Blood work indicated that Luke was successfully battling his cancer, until his health made a rapid decline after his 5th birthday.

Luke was a big, happy, loving boy who put a smile on every human face. He and Ann were always a bright light at St. Anthony’s, and made a big difference in the lives of the people they touched. Thanks to Luke and Ann for their weekly commitment to St. A’s Dogs on Call. You will both be greatly missed.