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# Yorkshire Terrier cheers up sick kids at Palm Beach hospital

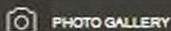


PHOTO GALLERY



Peaches, a 4-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, visits sick children at the Palm Beach hospital. Accompanied by Bob and Claire Spielman, the trio is a highlight for staff, parents and patients. (Jeffrey A. Graves)



By **Elissa Rosen** - Contact Reporter

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**W**hen her therapy vest goes on, she knows it's time to get down to business. But unlike other volunteers at St. Mary's Children's Hospital, this one is chauffeured around in a pink stroller.

Peaches, a 4-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, visits sick children at the Palm Beach hospital. Accompanied by Bob and Claire Spielman, the trio is a highlight for staff, parents and patients.

"Every child in that hospital we are allowed to visit loves her," Claire said. "The kids just eat her up."

When the retired couple adopted Peaches at 4 months old, they had no intention of having her become a therapy dog. But once they saw how much she loved children, and vice versa, they decided it would be a great way to give back to the community. Once Peaches completed basic obedience classes, they enrolled her in specialized training with Share-A-Pet.

Peaches is known for the "get well boo boo kisses" she gives children on the finger.

In addition to her Monday morning trips to the hospital, Peaches also visits adults at NuVista Living every other Thursday.

"[The patients] are hysterical," Claire said. "They start giggling. Their eyes light up. They become kind of like kids."

When Peaches isn't working with Share-A-Pet, she models for doggie fashion events, charities and dog rescue groups. In 2015, she even won America's Top Dog Model Contest.

"The fact that we can brighten people's days is important, especially with the way things are going in the world," Claire said.