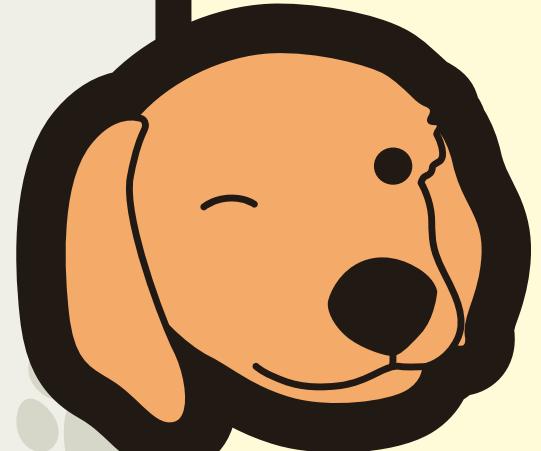




Meet Gabou

HGES Facility Dog

All About Gabby

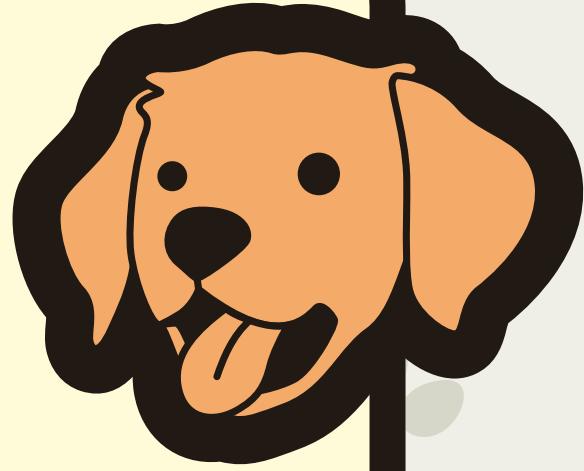


Gabriella Rose
June 5, 2023

Golden Retriever



All About Gabby



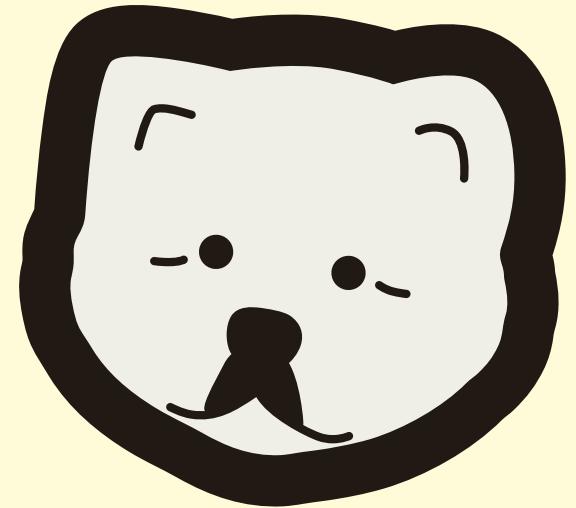
- Donated to Paws Giving Independence
- Trained as a puppy by a student at Illinois State University
- Transitioned to Helping Paws Program for more training
- Went to transitional trainer for more one on one training
- Trained with Mrs. Wooden for 6 months
- Continues her training with Mrs. Wooden & PGI once a month



What is a Facility Dog?

- A special dog with special training that helps in schools, hospitals, and the community
- Brings comfort, encouragement, and smiles to kids and adults
- Not the same as a therapy dog or service dog—this dog lives with a grown-up helper and comes to school every day

Benefits of a Facility Dog



Helps students:

- Helps kids feel calm and relaxed
- Gives a boost of confidence and encouragement
- Reminds us to make kind and positive choices
- Makes learning fun and exciting

Safety, Health, & Policies

- Allergy considerations and accommodations
- Hygiene and grooming protocols
- Supervision at all times
- Vaccination and veterinary care
- Procedures for students who opt out

Cost & Sustainability

- Initial training acquisition costs
 - PGI Provided - \$0
- Ongoing care
 - Vet bills - HGES PTO
 - Grooming/Food - Mrs. Wooden
- Toys and treats
 - Generosity of HGES Families

Gabby's Stats

- Classroom Visits - 29
- Classroom Rewards - 3
- Individual Rewards - 31
- Walks - about 200
- Cuddle breaks - 58 scheduled, endless unscheduled
- Reading/Classroom Support - about 40



Gabby's Newsletter

GREETINGS FROM GABBY

Monthly Newsletter

SAFETY WITH GABBY

This month, students learned some very important safety rules for spending time with Gabby (or any dog). Ask your child if they can tell you the safe spots to pet her – her head, chest, back, and ears!

Students practiced asking, "Can I pet your dog?" before reaching out, so Gabby knows someone is coming to give her attention. We also talked about always approaching Gabby with calm hands and calm bodies – and never giving her people food!

Gabby has already brought so many smiles to our students and staff, and by following these safety rules, we can make sure everyone continues to feel safe, comfortable, and happy around her.

GABBY'S FAVORITES

Toys - All her stuffed animals
Treats - Starmark Everlasting Bento Ball Treats
Activity - Watching the office from her window & getting belly rubs



GREETINGS FROM GABBY

Monthly Newsletter

WHAT GABBY SAW IN SEPTEMBER

This month, students had the chance to take part in our Meet Gabby presentations! They learned all about how Gabby became a service dog and what a facility dog does in schools.

Together, we talked about how important it is to respect everyone's views about dogs – especially if someone feels nervous or unsure – and how we can all make our school a comfortable space for every student.

Students also practiced the safe way to approach Gabby, where it's OK to pet her, and some of the fun commands she knows.



GREETINGS FROM GABBY

Monthly Newsletter

SERVICE DOG VS. FACILITY DOG

You may see dogs working in different roles within schools and the community. While they may look similar, facility dogs and service dogs have different jobs and access rights.

Service Dogs

- Trained to assist one specific individual with a disability
- Perform tasks such as guiding someone who is visually impaired, alerting to medical needs, or assisting with mobility
- Legally permitted to accompany their handler anywhere the public is allowed
- Focused solely on supporting their handler

Facility Dogs

- Trained to work with a trained professional (such as an educator, counselor, or therapist)
- Provide comfort, emotional support, and assistance to many individuals
- Commonly found in schools, hospitals, and therapy settings
- Access is limited to the facility and activities approved by the organization

Both types of dogs are highly trained and play important roles. At our school, our facility dog supports students' social-emotional learning, confidence, and well-being under staff supervision.

GABBY'S STATS FOR DECEMBER

Walks with friends - 18
Playtime in the gym/hallways - 12
Student cuddle visits - 7
Student reward visits - 6
Stories read to Gabby - 5
Quick hugs - Countless!



GREETINGS FROM GABBY

Monthly Newsletter

WHAT GABBY SAW IN DECEMBER

December was all about calm, comfort, and connection for Gabby. She spent more time in classrooms helping students relax, refocus, and feel supported during a busy month. Whether listening to reading, resting nearby during work time, or joining in quick movement breaks, Gabby brought her cheerful presence everywhere she went. She was especially excited to enjoy all the snow this month and test out her new snow boots! Her amazing student helpers made sure she had daily walks, playtime, and plenty of water.

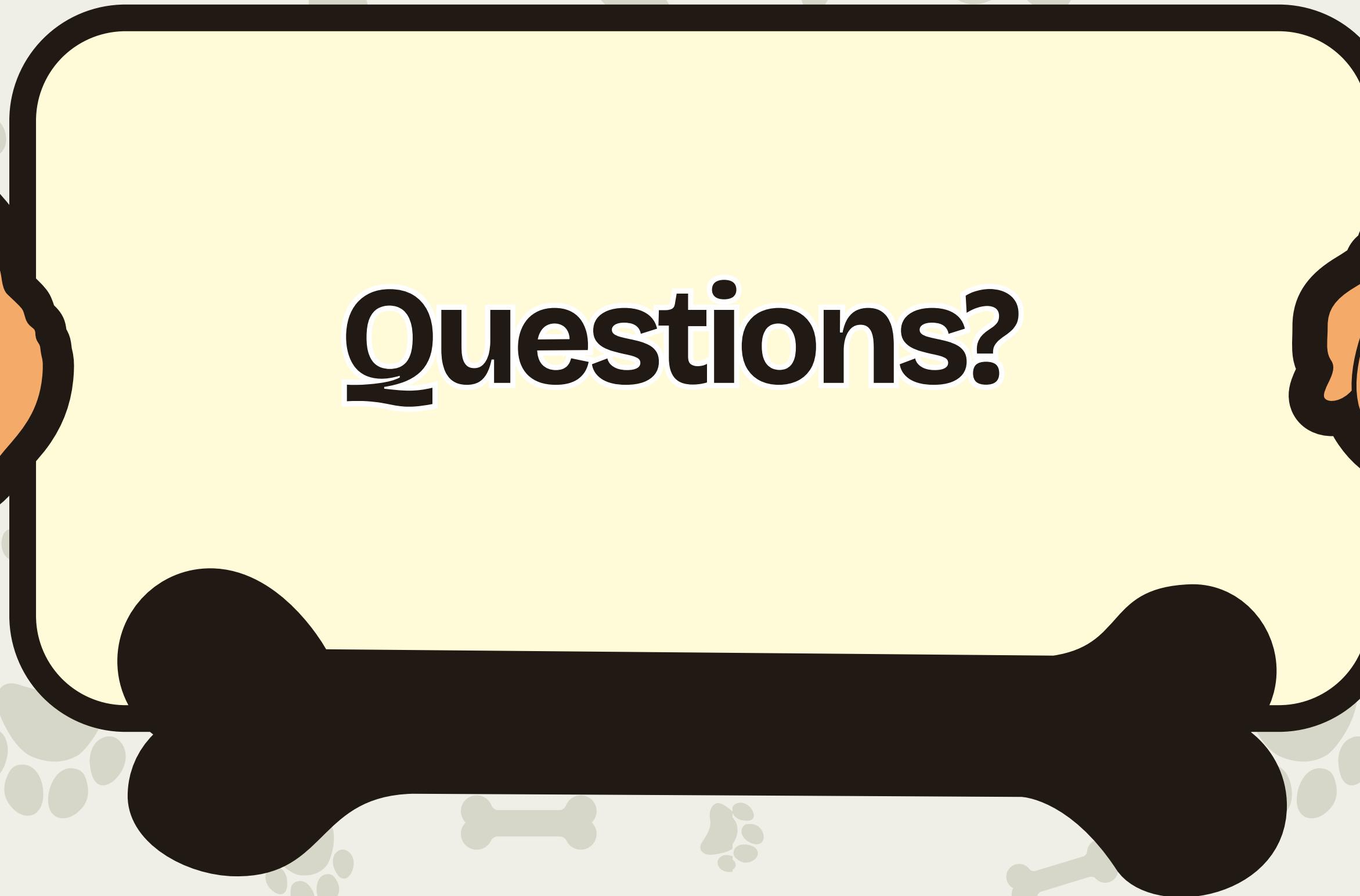
We're so thankful for all of Gabby's HGES friends who take such good care of her.

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Questions?