

Cari & Rocky

When my dad was diagnosed with cancer, it marked the beginning of one of the most difficult chapters in our family's life. As he faced early retirement and an uncertain future, I finally convinced him to fulfill a long-held dream—bringing home a French Bulldog. That's when Rocky joined our family.

We thought we had more time—four or five years, at least. But just five months after Rocky arrived, my dad passed away. Rocky became my dog much sooner than expected. And through that heavy grief, he became more than just a beloved pet. He became my partner in healing.

A Natural Gift

From the start, Rocky stood out—not just for his compact energy and classic Frenchie charm, but for something deeper: his intuition. He has a unique ability to sense when people are hurting and respond in the most tender way.

When my mother-in-law was recovering from abdominal surgery, Rocky surprised us all. Instead of his usual enthusiastic entrance, he approached her gently and curled up by her side without a sound. Somehow, he just knew.

A Therapy Dog in the Making

It was my grandmother—who's been navigating memory loss—who first suggested that Rocky might have what it takes to become a therapy dog. During a visit to her senior living complex, he made an instant impression. Her neighbors were still asking about him weeks later.

When she visits us, Rocky has a calming effect on her. They share snacks, play fetch, and cuddle on the couch. She says he helps her feel grounded, especially on overwhelming days.

A Rare Spirit

I've lived with dogs all my life, often more than one at a time. But Rocky is different. He's playful and full of mischief, as you'd expect from a young Frenchie—but he also has a deep, peaceful presence. When you're feeling anxious, he doesn't wait for permission. He climbs into your lap, drapes his paws over your shoulders like a hug, and stays until the tension fades.

Moving Forward—Together

That's why we decided to take the next step: training to become a certified traveling therapy team. Rocky already brings joy and healing to everyone he meets. Now, we're simply opening more doors for him to do what he was born to do—lift spirits, one snuggle at a time.