



In Loving Memory of Riley

August 24, 2011 – August 13, 2025

Riley, a bright and beautiful female Yellow Lab, came into my life in 2013 when she was just 1½ years old. Her former family, faced with a serious illness, could no longer keep her. All they shared was that Riley had earned the neighborhood title of "Social Butterfly." It didn't take long for me to see how she received that title.

Riley had an infectious joy and a deep desire to greet every person she met. Her happy, enthusiastic nature meant she needed guidance to channel her energy—and I knew immediately that she was destined for something special. After two years of dedicated obedience training, she was ready to begin her journey as a therapy dog.

In 2014, after retiring, I moved from Sacramento, California to Seal Rock, Oregon. There, we found Oregon Coast Therapy Animals (now Pet Partners of the Oregon Coast) in Newport, and Riley began the process of becoming a registered therapy animal. By 2017, after lots of hard work and encouragement from those who had already fallen in love with her, we passed the Pet Partners evaluation. It was the official beginning of Riley's incredible career.

Riley spent the following years touching countless lives. She visited our local hospital, rehab centers, and even hospice patients, always bringing comfort, joy, and a wagging tail. Her gentle presence and puppy-like spirit made her a natural at calming anxious hearts.

Riley also loved working with children. At the Waldport Library, she became a beloved presence during "Story Time," listening intently as kids read to her. She advanced into Pet Partners' "Read with Me" program and began visiting 3rd and 4th grade classrooms in Newport and Waldport, where students practiced reading aloud with her by their side. Riley always showed up with a big grin and a fluffy tummy ready for belly rubs.

In January 2024, Riley retired after years of dedicated service, having shared warmth, laughter, and love with everyone she met. On August 13, 2025, she peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

There will never be another dog quite like Riley. She was an extraordinary companion with a boundless heart—gifted with the rare ability to connect with people from all walks of life. She didn't just visit—she belonged wherever she went. She made people feel seen, comforted, and loved.

Riley was more than a therapy dog—she was a friend, a healer, and a light in the lives of many. Her legacy lives on in every smile she sparked and every heart she touched.

Rest easy, sweet girl. You were truly one of a kind.