Introducing Kirby, the adorable pup of AWL member Rachel Sterbenz!



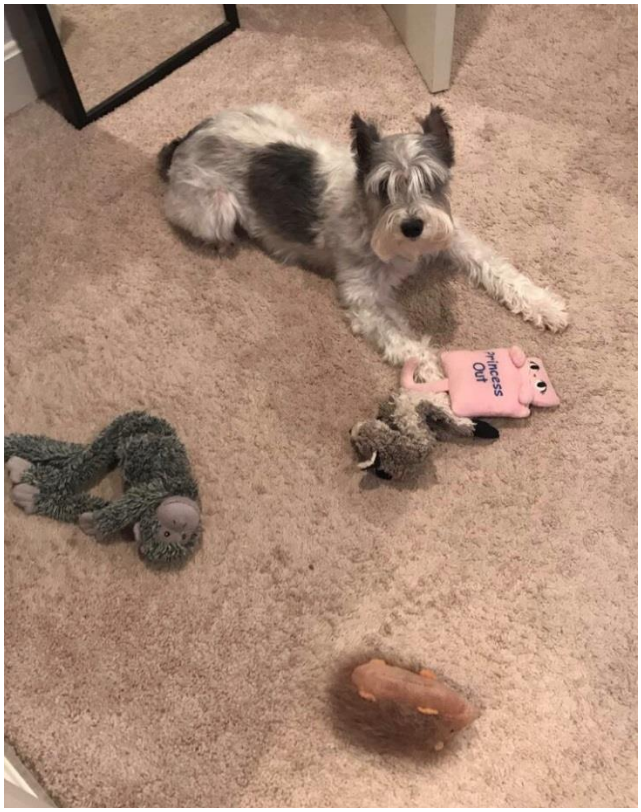
Meet Kirby, a 12-year-old miniature schnauzer and the beloved furry friend of AWL member Rachel Sterbenz.

The Backstory

Kirby joined the Sterbenz family in 2006 while Rachel was out of state attending college, and he lived with them in Topeka for most of his life. When Rachel's parents retired in 2015, he packed his bags and moved to the Country Club Plaza to live with Rachel while she was attending UMKC Law! He's adapted well to living in a more populated area (especially because schnauzers tend to be pretty high-strung), and now her family fondly refers to him as "The Plaza Dog," especially when he wears scarves and booties during the winter.

Favorite snacks

Kirby is on a pretty strict allergy diet, so he will do almost anything when offered a treat! He is particularly fond of rabbit ears, chicken, and anything you happen to leave on the coffee table unattended for more than a couple hours.



Favorite toys

Kirby's favorite toys are the ones with squeakers. He's also a big fan of his squirrel stuffed animal. Rachel thinks it's because he's too slow to catch a real one (not for lack of trying)! Almost every morning, Kirby walks around the house to find his favorite toys, and one-by-one, he brings them into Rachel's bedroom where she is getting ready for the day.

Favorite things to do

Kirby LOVES to be out and about. Some of his favorite activities are going on walks around his West Plaza neighborhood (although Rachel would argue he enjoys stopping to smell the roses more than the walking part) and riding shotgun in the car, no matter the destination. He also loves to pretend he's on the neighborhood watch team; he could spend hours looking out the windows barking at passers-by!

Kirby loves walks so much that he knows all of the steps that have to happen before they leave the house (shoes, leash, keys, etc.). Every night after he eats dinner, Kirby sits by the front door hoping that they'll go for a stroll. If Rachel doesn't put on her shoes right away, he makes sure that she knows that he's ready by walking back and forth between the door and wherever she is, making little monkey sounds. The moment that she makes any type of gesture towards her shoes or his leash, he gets so excited that he spins around in a circle and takes off towards the front door.

Kirby's personality

Kirby's funniest personality trait is how he tries to communicate like a human. He makes little talking noises when he meets new people, and he will let out a little grumble or a deep sigh if he doesn't get his way.

Rachel reports that he's very well-behaved, he's a great couch companion and snuggle buddy, and if he had the choice, he'd never leave her side!

