

A Reader's Tail

As part of The Good Dog Foundation's reading program, Biscuit and other volunteer dogs visit local schools to help students learn to read.

Hi, I'm Biscuit, a 6½ year-old blond male cocker spaniel. Some people think I am a girl because I have long blond hair and long eyelashes, but I do know how to pee like a boy.

Did you always have an interest in becoming a therapy dog? My Mom told me it would be fun. I like people and people like me. For some reason, people smile when they see me.

Do you like your job?

YES. I like all of the attention. It makes me wiggle and wag my tail. Also, I get lots of treats for doing a few tricks and looking cute.

How do you prepare for your job on work day?

I make sure that I take a good long nap before I go, and I make sure that I'm hungry—although, to tell the truth, I'm always hungry! Then my mom drives me to work so I get to school on time!

Do you have a favorite client?

I love all of my clients, especially the ones that give me treats!

How do your work sessions go?

I visit with students in the reading program at PS 282.

Reading to me helps students who are having trouble reading. I smile at them and let them pet me before they read to me—sometimes while they are reading, too. We don't really play. Sometimes I give a child a "high five" or a kiss—nothing too rambunctious.

How long does the session last?

I stay for 30 to 45 minutes. I would stay longer but the children have to go to class.

What are you learning from the children you work with?

I learned that the children really like dogs—especially me! I have also



learned that reading to me helps children with their reading skills. Some would like to take me home but I want to stay with my mom and dad and sister.

Being a therapy dog is fun! It doesn't feel like work at all. I wonder why people complain about working. I'm working

and all I have to do is lie on a couch and look cute. I get to meet lots of nice people and eat lots of treats. It's nice to make people smile and to help the children learn how to read.

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