

Chelsea Robinson, 2018 Pet Hero

Chelsea Robinson is an 8 year old female Golden Retriever and a certified therapy dog. She is a member of the Rim of the World Comfort Pet, Inc., Therapy Dogs International, The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc., Intermountain Therapy Animals, (a Reading Education Assistance Dogs® Program), and a certified AKC Canine Good Citizen.

In September of last year, Barry Robinson, Chelsea's owner,

received a request from a fellow Rotarian. Knowing that Chelsea was a certified therapy dog, he was asked if Chelsea would provide comfort and support to Michelle Knight as she gave a presentation to over two hundred District Attorneys, Assistant District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Law Enforcement Officers, Psychiatrists, and other professionals dealing with human trafficking, rape, prostitution, kidnapping, family violence and similar cases. The attendees would

be gathering at Disneyland from all over the state of California to hear Michelle speak. Both Barry and Chelsea gladly accepted the opportunity to serve.

Michelle Knight, was one of the three women who escaped in 2013 from the Cleveland home of Ariel Castro after 11 years of captivity, torture and abuse.

While Ms. Knight recounted the details of her kidnapping and captivity, Chelsea

laid down beside her on the stage, After the presentation and a Q&A session lasting over a hour and a half, Chelsea was surrounded with petting, hugs, and thank you's from no only Michelle Knight but many of the audience members.

On Saturday, May 12th, Chelsea will receive the San Bernardino Humane Society's "Pet Hero" Award.



Chelsea's Story by Cheryl & Barry Robinson

Chelsea is our fifteenth Golden Retriever and fourteen of them have been rescues. They have come from all kinds of backgrounds and circumstances. A few with the mental and physical scars of abuse that in many cases, never leave them. However, no matter what has happened in the past to these innocent and beautiful animals, their pain can usually be erased with love and the building of a bond between a rescued dog and their new partner. Chelsea's story is one of those successes.

It was the spring of 2015 and sadly we had just let our latest Golden cross the Rainbow Bridge after having succumbed to inoperable cancer. This was the first time we had ever experienced losing a Golden

before they had lived a long life and we were heartbroken.

Needing to fill the void once more we reached out to all the California Golden Retriever Rescue Operations. Interviewed by these organizations and passing their requirements with flying colors we waited. Just a few days and we received a phone call offering us a chance to resued a five-year-old female golden retriever. Chelsea had come to live with us.

It became immediately obvious that she had never lived or been in a house before and had been put in a crate for very long periods of time. She was malnourished, underweight by 15-20 pounds and her coat was a real indication of neglect; and she was uncontrollable!

Destructive, enough to cause at least \$1,000.00 damage within just a few days.

An "outside dog", she was so wild we could not even start to train or control her. In our fifty years of having Golden Retrievers we had never had one that we couldn't train to become an obedient, healthy and happy companion. What were we to do? Do we return her or do we seek help. Contacting, the Ruff House, a boarding and training kennel in Riverside, trainer Charlene took Chelsea under her wing. Fourteen days later, Chelsea had been transformed into the "perfect" Golden Retriever.

When we went to pick up

Chelsea we noticed a posted flyer offering training to become a therapy dog. Chelsea's trainer thought she would be an ideal candidate. We immediately signed up and went for the next two Saturday mornings for training. On the third Saturday we visited forty-three patients in a long-term care facility in Riverside, then were examined by a Certified Examiner from Therapy Dogs International and the American Kennel Club (AKC). Chelsea passed both the TDI and the AKC Good Citizens Examinations. What an achievement this was! To think that we had nearly sent her back.

Fast forward a couple of

months, and we met Linda Smith, President of Rim of the World Comfort Pets. Talking with Linda and deciding to become a member turned out to be the best decision we ever made. Chelsea had to be re-evaluated by Linda, whose testing was much more stringent and demanding, fully engaging the teams in what is really expected in all aspects of the healthcare and caregiving environment. Now we were both

ready to start our journey in the whole gambit of being a Therapy Team. We "shadowed" Linda and her experienced handlers to gain more hands-on training and exposure. We registered with the Veteran's Administration and other facilities, so we could start to visit on our own. Chelsea now shares her love leaving everyone she visits feeling a little better and always with a smile on their faces.



The Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley's Pet Hero award is to honor animals that have helped members of the community through a difficult time, a life-threatening situation or any special way that made a difference.

PET EVENTS

Walk for the Animals & Pet Hero Awards Recognition

Bring your animal buddies and enjoy a day of play and festivities with other animal lovers in your community!

- Pet Hero Recognition • Pet Games & Contests
 - VendorVillage for pets & people • Raffle Drawings
 - Demonstrations • Photo Booth • Pet Crafts • Food & Drinks
- Saturday, May 12, 2018 • 8am-11:30am • FREE
San Manuel Stadium, 280 E St., San Bernardino
For more info: (909) 386-1400 | hssbv.org

Paws 4 Pets Walk 2018

The annual IVHS & S.P.C.A. is the biggest pet walk in the Inland Valley! You will be entertained with games and activities, sponsor booths, a Vendor Village filled with dozens of pet boutiques and pet information booths, a pancake breakfast, music and more!

Saturday, May 20, 2018 • 7:30am-12noon
Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park (West Picnic Area)
120 Via Verde, San Dimas
www.ivhsspca.org



Chelsea at work.

