There’s a dog in your school?!
Introductions

Jamie Stokes & Braxton

Lori Ranfeld & Whimsey

Rebecca Strubbe & Barbie
Our Journey

• Braxton’s story
• Whimsey’s Story
• Barbie’s Story
Therapy Dogs Are...

• Certified with their owners/handlers as Certified Assistance Dog Teams to provide emotional and physical support in the educational setting. These highly trained dogs model good behavior, tolerance, and acceptance.

• They work to support and positively influence student behavior

• They are trained and tested to provide specific physical or therapeutic functions under the direction and control of a qualified handler who works with the dog as a team, and as part of the handler’s occupation.
Therapy Dogs Are NOT...

- A family pet that has been obedience trained
Daily Uses

- Overall Culture/Climate
- Classroom Visits
- Classroom Rewards
- Group Interventions: Check-In Check-Out; Social Skills Training
- Intense Interventions: Out-of-Control Students, Parents, Staff
- HS Library and Functional Classrooms
Selecting an organization/ reputable breeder/ trainer

- What to look for when choosing an organization
- Training/selection of dogs
- Why we choose Cares, Inc

- [www.caresks.com](http://www.caresks.com)
District Policy

- Why is it important to have a District Policy for Therapy Dogs?

- Don’t re-invent the wheel
  - Bettendorf: [http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/services/therapy-dog-program](http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/services/therapy-dog-program)
  - Lebanon R-3

- Important Info to Include:
  - Role & Purpose of Therapy Dog Teams
  - Professional Therapy Dog Oversight Committee
  - Handler Ethics
  - Dog Health Records
  - Public Access Test Documentation/Certification Documentation
  - Veterinarian Information/Health Checks/Shot Records
FAQ’s

• Who owns the dog?

• How much does a professional therapy dog cost?

• How did you pay/fund raise?

• What about students with allergies?

• What about students/staff with a fear of dogs?

• What are the benefits for parents, staff, and admin?

• What kind of a commitment is being a handler?

• Can’t I just get my family dog trained?
Contact Info

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